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KENT ON SUNDAY

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INSIDE ALL THE LATEST NEWS ON THE NEW 60 REGISTRATION PLATE

SATs SCORES ARE WIDE OF UK MARK

County's primary schools need to improve as results fall behind national average

By **MARIJKE COX**

ALMOST one third of primary school children have failed to meet national standards as the latest SATs results reveal Kent is falling below the national average.

Although 70 per cent of 11-year-olds achieved the level four benchmark in English and maths combined – the standard level primary school leavers are expected to meet – nationally, the figure was 74 per cent.

The provisional results released by Kent County Council did, however, show improvements from previous years, with figures up two per cent. They were the highest seen in the county since 2005.

But breaking the figures down into subjects, reveals the number of students achieving level four in maths was 77 per cent, three per cent lower than the national average, despite Kent seeing a two per cent increase since last year.

In English the figure stayed put at 78 per cent, with the national figure at 81 per cent.

Medway Council also failed to meet countrywide standards with 76 per cent in English and 74 per cent in maths.

Although education chiefs at County Hall said they were pleased to see improvements from last year, Cllr Jenny Whittle, deputy cabinet member for children, families and education, admitted progress needed to be made.

"I'm pleased the results for level four English and mathematics combined are up by two per cent," she said.

"However, I want to see those figures improve in the coming years. There will be intensive support for those schools below the target and partnerships between schools to help raise attainment. I truly believe that further improvements in education for five to 11-year-olds will come about by parents and schools working closely together."

At 14 schools all the pupils reached the target standards in English and maths.

And of the 74 schools where less than 55 per cent of pupils hit the standard in those subjects in 2009, 42 successfully reached or exceeded the target for 2010. For higher level reading, pupils made progress with results increasing by three per cent to 48 per cent.

But despite pockets of success around the

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Delight for protesters as road-rail plan is scrapped

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

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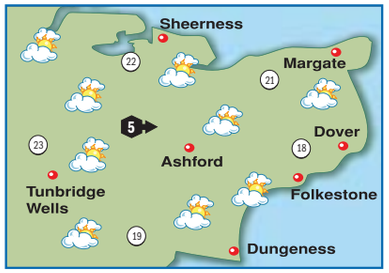
Kent today



TODAY: A dry morning with plenty of sunshine. Cloud will bubble up in the afternoon perhaps leading to a shower but most places will stay dry. Gentle winds. Max temp 20-23C (68-73F). **TONIGHT:** It will be dry throughout with plenty of clear spells. Light winds. Min temp 11-14C (52-57F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	17	63	London	fair	24	75
Belfast	cloudy	17	63	Liverpool	fair	18	64
Birmingham	fair	21	70	Manchester	cloudy	19	66
B'mouth	fair	23	73	Newcastle	cloudy	19	66
Bristol	fair	19	66	Norwich	fair	20	68
Cardiff	fair	20	68	Oxford	fair	22	72
Cork	drizzle	18	64	Southsea	sun	23	73
Edinburgh	cloudy	19	66	S'hampton	fair	22	72
Glasgow	cloudy	17	63	Southport	fair	17	63
Isle of Man	cloudy	17	63	Swansea	fair	19	66
Leeds	fair	18	64	Torquay	fair	20	68

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5.29am	Sunset	8.32pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	3.01am	Moonset	7.26pm	8.32pm to 5.30am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	10.20	6.1	22.37	6.3	11.09	6.5	23.26	6.6
Margate	11.16	4.3	23.42	4.6	–	–	12.09	4.6
St Mary's	03.45	4.9	16.11	5.3	04.39	5.3	17.02	5.6

Week ahead

monday Rain late on. max 22C min12C

thursday Sunny spells. max 21C min 11C

tuesday Risk of showers. max 20C min 11C

friday Dry and bright. max 21C min 11C

wednesday Mainly fine. max 21C min 12C

saturday Staying settled. max 22C min 11C

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Government rejects bid for freight depot

By **JOE BILL**
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CONTROVERSIAL plans for the Kent International Gateway to be built in rural Maidstone have been sensationally scrapped.

Delighted campaigners celebrated the news that the 250-acre road-rail freight interchange has been thrown out by the government.

On Thursday Communities Secretary Eric Pickles refused an appeal by developer AXA, which had planned to build the giant industrial site next to the rural village of Bearsted at junction 8 of the M20.

Councillors, MPs and residents had been fighting the KIG proposals since March, 2007.

Maidstone council leader Cllr Chris Garland said: "This is a great result for the borough.

"The council is keen to attract businesses to Maidstone, but we need to provide high quality jobs for local people and also protect the environment and our rural communities.

"I hope this will draw a line under this application and the council's longer term planning for the borough can now move ahead."

The depot, which was the size of 100 football pitches, was condemned by residents for the effects it would have on the countryside, wildlife, traffic, pollution and archaeological heritage of the area.

The plan was to take HGVs off the motorways by creating a hub to move goods off lorries, many arriving in Kent through Dover port, and onto the rail system for distribution around the country.

SAVED: Kent International Gateway was planned for green field land near Maidstone

Kent's Green Party was heavily involved in stopping the proposed industrial estate that would have sat between the picturesque villages of Bearsted and Holligbourne.

Campaigns officer Stuart Jeffery said: "This is a welcome decision. Big business cannot be allowed to run roughshod over the will of local people or destroy such a beautiful and useful rural area.

"Let us hope this matter has been put to rest now and that AXA turn their attention to funding projects which will reduce the impact on the environment rather than destroying it."

The KIG application was originally dismissed by Maidstone councillors after research found the site would attract some 6,000 vehicles and only three trains per day. AXA had stated there would be up to 19.

The council felt KIG would significantly harm the countryside and Maidstone residents through its 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, operation.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "The Government has made the right decision by rejecting this scheme. This is a victory for common sense.

"Kent International Gateway was a non-starter. It would be a travesty for a rail freight depot of this scale to go at the foot of the Kent Downs, one of our most treasured

Exam boycott 'affects comparison'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

county, overall school children failed to keep up with the national standard.

Independent education advisor Peter Read, from Gravesend, said primaries are falling behind compared to secondaries.

"I'm pleased to see there is an improvement in primary results, but the puzzle still remains as to why Kent secondary schools consistently perform at above average levels when primaries remain at below the national average," he said.

The number of pupils achieving top GCSE results last year rose by 5.4 per cent between 2008 and 2009, to 73 per cent.

And figures also showed the number of key stage four students, aged 15-16, gaining A*-C grades in English and maths had increased by two per cent to 52 per cent, beating the 49.8 per cent national average.

This year's SATs exams were thrown in the spotlight when the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the National Association of Headteachers (NAHT) led a protest against the controversial exams, which they claim put children under pressure and prevent a balanced curriculum.

Primary schools across the country staged a boycott, with 24 from Kent not putting pupils through the exams.

Cllr Whittle said this made it harder to compare the county with the national average.

"Only six per cent of Kent primary schools boycotted the tests, compared to 26 per cent nationally," she said.

"While SATs will be in place for 2011, the Government has ordered a review into primary testing. This will give leading figures the opportunity to influence how our children are assessed before they move on to secondary school."

Teachers' assessment of pupils were published at the same time as the SATs results, although the Kent figures were unavailable.

Nationally, SATs results and teachers' own assessments were the same, highlighting the argument that the tests are not needed.

Mr Read said: "This shows teachers' assessments can be relied on, so why are we relying on SATs to show us how pupils are doing?"

For the fifth year running, reception pupils at foundation stage have improved, with 61 per cent – 10 per cent up from last year – achieving the expected level.

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Cloned beef is safe to eat claim farmers and genetics expert

THE National Farmers Union in Kent said it has no problems with cloned beef entering the UK's food chain, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

It comes after the Food Standards Agency discovered the meat from a bull, born using an embryo from an American cloned cow, was sold for human consumption from a farm in Scotland.

Experts are now divided on the rights and wrongs of the meat being eaten by humans.

The RSPCA said it wants cloning banned, but the NFU in Kent said: "Our position is that we understand there is no health risk posed by eating meat from cloned animals.

"The other point is the UK has a world-class cattle identification and tracing system which is monitored by government authorities including the Food Standards Agency.

"The passport which each animal has also contains their genetic details.

"No cloning can take place in the UK at the moment. But in the case of a progeny from a cloned animal, the passport would identify the host dam, which is the mother."

And Professor Darren Griffin, professor of genetics at the school of bioscience at the University of Kent said: "The first thing to say about this is that no-one has ever found any evidence that cloned meat is in any way dangerous to eat.

"You should never say never, but I can't see a conceivable way it might be, and there are all sorts of things we should worry about before this.

"The issue really is that people should be able to choose and know what they are going to put in to their mouths and where it comes from, and be able to make an informed decision on whether they eat it or not. I think the two issues are getting mixed up here."

Compassion in World Farming, said cloning was cruel because "many animals suffer in the pursuit of higher yields because they are being stretched to the limits of their physical capacity".

But Prof Griffin said: "I think to say this is cruel because it physically affects the animal is stretching the imagination too far.

"The embryos are implanted and the animals are born in the normal way and presumably treated no differently."

Stem cell expert Robin Lovell-Badge added he would be happy to eat the meat from a cloned cow.

He said: "Sometimes a cloned animal will have some abnormalities which doesn't mean that's going to be unsafe to eat to begin with.

MILKING IT: Cloned meat 'poses no threat'

When you breed from that animal, you reset all those issues and you'll be back to normal."

The meat entered the UK food chain after two bulls from the embryos of a cow cloned in America were bought by farmer Steven Innes at the Newmeadow Farm, near Nairn in the Scottish highlands.

Milestone

Meat from one was sold on to be eaten after the animal was slaughtered in July last year.

The second bull was slaughtered in July this year, but that meat was not allowed into the food chain. Before that, they sired 100 cows which are still on the farm, but are not used to produce milk.

The Food Standards Agency also said meat from another offspring of a cloned cow had entered the food chain.

The animal, called Parable, was born in May, 2007, and slaughtered on May 5, 2010.

Companies in the US are using cloning technology to boost milk and meat yields.

These products need to pass safety tests before being sold in Europe.

Food Standards Agency chief Tim Smith said there is no way it can vouch for every single animal in the UK.

He said: "It's a bit like the police being there and being an efficient service and us expecting no crime.

"It's inevitable that however good the system is, it ultimately relies on the honesty of the people who are participating in the chain.

"So it means that every farmer, every breeder, every processor has to come clean and tell us what it is they're actually doing.

"It's impossible for us to stand by each animal and watch what happens to it throughout its life cycle."

The European authorities are still examining the whole issue of products from cloned animals and MEPs last month voted to ban them. September is the next milestone in the process and a Euro ban on clones could become law.

Recently, the British dairy industry organisation DairyCo declared it was "confident" no milk from a cow which had come from a cloned cow had been consumed by humans.

A Gale warning

ANIMAL charities should be included on the board of the Disasters Emergency Committee which responds to crisis like the Pakistan floods.

That's the claim of North Thanet Tory MP Roger Gale, who is a Trustee of the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad.

He said: "This is not some dewy-eyed plea; it is a hard-nosed life-saving reality that has been proved over and over again that if you do not save livestock at the same time that you save human life, then in the longer term more people will continue to die."

Pair injured boys

A COUPLE who assaulted two boys under the age of four have been found guilty of child neglect.

Kristina Davies, 19, and Ricky Winter, 23, both of Canterbury Road, Margate, had previously pleaded not guilty of child neglect relating to a period in July, 2009, when the pair were looking after the children.

During that time the boys suffered injuries, including fractured bones, bruises and bites.

The pair will be sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court in the week commencing September 6.

To see this clip search 'country' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

See Julie Maddocks at launch of country roads speed campaign

Gunman wanted 'death by cop' after killing his lover

KILLER Tomas Uptas murdered the "one he most loved" in a fit of rage before attempting to get himself shot dead by police in a supermarket, ***write Ian Read and Jenny Armstrong***.

Alcoholic Uptas, 32, strangled girlfriend Loretta Raupiene with her own scarf before rampaging through Wincheap in Canterbury, threatening motorists and shoppers with an imitation firearm.

He was eventually shot in the arm by a police marksman in Morrisons.

Uptas was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court to a minimum of 18-and-a-half years in prison, minus 243 days already spent in behind bars.

Lithuanians Miss Raupiene, 47, and Uptas lived in a bedsit in Victoria Road, Wincheap.

On the night of the murder, Uptas had been drinking heavily. Miss Raupiene told Uptas she was leaving him to return to Lithuania shortly before he killed her.

KILLED: Lithuanian Loretta Raupiene

Judge Mr Justice Cooke said: "When she said she was leaving you, you deliberately killed her. Afterwards you calmed down and possibly felt despair over what happened. Whether or not you intended to get the police to kill you only you can know, but it can be the only sensible explanation for what you did."

The judge said Uptas seemed unable to let Ms Raupiene leave him as she had decided to do. He had previously said: "If not for me, then for no-one."

Uptas betrayed his violent temper at several points during the trial, at one point refusing to answer prosecution barrister Oliver Saxby and haranguing the judge.

Previously he had challenged the judge to hand him a life sentence, and last week even refused to appear in the dock because he wasn't allowed to smoke a cigarette in his cell.

The jury of four women and eight men came to a unanimous verdict following nine hours of deliberation. When the judge pronounced the sentence he grinned and made a comment to his translator as he left the courtroom.

After the trail Miss Raupiene's daughter, Greta Raupyte, said: "If every time when I think about mum a flower would blossom I would have an infinite garden.

"I always remember her as a positive, smiling person.

"Someone has lost a daughter, someone has lost a friend, someone has lost a wife, but I have lost the only person I could lean on, the person with whom I could talk about anything, the person who was everything to me."

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Police dogs add bite to the fight against crime

KENT Police dogs have bitten almost 50 people in the past 15 months, according to new figures.

By **MARIJKE COX**
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Four victims were innocent members of the public caught up in police chases and, in one case, a missing person search.

Four police officers were also bitten, but the majority of those attacked were suspected criminals, and in almost half of the cases they were being pursued by police.

Crimes included burglary, vehicle theft, suspected arson, fights and threats to an officer. From January, 2009, to June, 2010, 49 people were bitten by police dogs – which help in the arrest of 1,000 suspects a year – causing injuries including puncture marks, grazes and scratches.

In some incidents the dogs gripped clothing – which has to be reported as a bite – or there was no injury sustained.

In the four cases of members of the public being bitten, one reported an ankle puncture wound, two reported reddening arms, and one claimed to have been bitten on the arm.

The 41 suspects – one of which was a violent prisoner and another wanted in connection with a violent assault – complained of either puncture wounds, bruising or bite marks. Since 2005, six claims have been made against the police regarding dog bites.

Of these three are now dormant, one was discontinued, another is ongoing, and in one case the claimant received £63 for a torn jacket.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams said all Kent Police dogs were trained to the national standard.

"Their handlers also undergo continuous refresher training throughout the year," he said. "Police dogs are trained to protect themselves and their handlers from violent attack, and also to chase and detain fleeing suspects. They help arrest more than 1,000 suspects every year, as well as working in areas such as helping find missing and vulnerable persons."

He said people who were violent towards the dog or its handler, or acted in a threatening way, could end up being bitten.

"People who make off from officers when told to stop may also be bitten as a result of their own actions," he said.

"We are proud that our force has one of the leading dog teams in the country and has won national awards at police events."

In all cases except one, the breed of dog involved in the reported bites was German shepherd. The single exception involved a mallinois, a variety of Belgian shepherd.

The Kent Police Dog Unit performs patrol duties, public order duties, explosives searching, weapon detection, cash detection and firearms support.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Speeding soldier

A DARTFORD soldier caught in Canada at almost three times the speed limit has been fined after telling police he was late.

David Louth told a court he was late getting back to base for duty, so put his foot down. He was doing 173kmh (108mph) in a 60kmh (37mph) zone in Strathmore, Calgary.

A charge of dangerous driving was dropped in favour of speeding. He was fined $800 – almost £500 – and could face action from the Army. His hired van was stopped by police after motorists has dialled the emergency 911 number to report the speeding vehicle.

The 24-year-old had passengers on board, all British soldiers returning to a troop training centre in Suffield, 150 miles south of Calgary.

Constable Tyler Cooke told the court: "He informed me he was running late," reported the Calgary Herald.

An MoD official said: "The dangerous driving charge was withdrawn which means he has not been convicted in civil court, just received a fine. If an individual is convicted internal disciplinary procedures would be considered, but no decision has been made."

Cop a quiet word

POLICE chiefs are touring shopping centres asking the public how they would make the £20 million savings needed in the force.

Ann Barnes, chair of Kent Police Authority, said: "We want to know what people would do if they were the budget holder.

"I give a commitment that we will listen and take the public's views to our budget committee in February, 2011."

Shoppers can give their views between 10.30am-3.30pm at Bluewater, on August 13; Sainsbury's in Sittingbourne, on August 19; County Square, Ashford, August 20; Asda at Kings Hill, August 26; and Whitefriars, Canterbury, September 6.

Angel of the South offer to sculptor

A SCULPTOR has been offered land near Dover for his own 'Angel of the South'.

Ian Morrison, from Wingham, has been given use of former Ministry of Defence land near Dover, for his 100ft Invicta horse sculpture. The land, which was also previously owned by Channel Tunnel operator Eurotunnel, is now in the hands of a private group which has told the sculptor he can locate the Kentish symbol there.

The site, just off the A20 near Folkestone, means the horse would be seen from across the Channel in Calais and Boulogne. Mr Morrison said: "It still needs planning permission, but this should be possible as there are no houses or anything anywhere nearby.

Support

"Kent County Council and Dover District Council support the idea. I designed it out of anger against the Ebbsfleet horse – that is all wrong. I've had a huge response to the design and hopefully it will be ready before the London Olympics."

The artist is hoping the project will be partially funded by Kentish people willing to pay to have their names engraved into the statue.

"Kentish people will be able to have their name put on it," said Mr Morrison.

"It will be personalised for Kent with the names on the mane, the tail and wherever else. It will stand as a record of these people for a small fee.

"It will stay there as long as people want because it will be made from galvanised steel plates. These have a lifespan of 55 years in the worst conditions and can be replaced if they start to corrode."

HIGH HORSE : Sculptor Ian Morrison with models of his Invicta design for Dover

To view, search 'Smithery' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks visits Chatham Historic Dockyard for the unveiling of No1 Smithery

Trailblazer Travel

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Knights on the town have paid off for DJ Mark

MARK KNIGHT: 'We have a love for what we do – and the business acumen'

MUSIC has become a real family affair for Maidstone-based DJ and businessman Mark Knight.

He started out behind the decks 15 years ago and his career has taken him around the world, but trying to run his own Toolroom Records label at the same time eventually became a trial.

That is when his Knights in shining armour stepped forward to help – brother Stuart and father Ken, along with friend Owen Ingram. Now in its seventh year, the company is going from strength to strength.

"My brother had left his job and he was always a big music fan," Knight, 37, said. "We've done everything together all our lives, so we sat down with dad and thought about what we wanted to do. We looked at the big names in the game and set our sights high.

"We made a five-year plan and we've pretty much succeeded in what we wanted to do. With 18 staff, we're probably the world's biggest independent dance label."

Although he has played all over the world, Knight has also seen a dark side of big dance events. He was on the decks at the Love Parade in Germany last month when a stampede claimed 20 lives, but Knight was told to play on during the chaos to try to avoid further panic.

With Ingram taking care of the legal side of the business and his brother running day-to-day operations, Knight is free to make music and guide the musical direction of Toolroom Records. Having performed as a drummer in the past, retired businessman Ken has brought another invaluable element to the business.

"My dad is probably the only 66-year-old who knows everything about dance music," Knight said. "Big names in the industry will pick up the phone and ask him about things.

"If you take his passion and business acumen, he's a good figurehead and a great person to have involved. He oversees it and drives it as a business."

Knight started out experimenting with music in his bedroom, before landing local gigs and then progressing to the globetrotting lifestyle he now enjoys. But after living in London for years, he decided to move back to Maidstone and base his business there. "It's really weird how a tiny little town has such a massive impact on the dance industry and there are just so many people here," he said. "It's a real microcosm of activity and quite inspirational."

Knight is keen to see more of his records cross over to the national charts, as well as building the management, publishing and events side of the business.

The club night, Toolroom Knights, will be hosting an arena at the South West Four festival at Clapham Common on Saturday, August 28. Visit www.southwestfour.com for more details.

"The secret of our success is that we have a love for what we do, but we have business acumen that runs alongside it," he said.

Find out more at www.djmarkknight.com.

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Brave toddler Alfie loses cancer fight

A LITTLE boy from Ramsgate who was battling a rare form of cancer has died at home.

Alfie Gough was suffering from neuroblastoma and a campaign called Alfie's Appeal was in full swing to try to help him beat the illness.

The aim was to raise £300,000 to fund treatment overseas for the toddler.

His funeral will take place at St Ethelbert's Church, Hereson Road, Ramsgate, on Tuesday, from 11am. There will be a service at Ramsgate cemetery afterwards.

Two-year-old Alfie died at home with his mum and dad, Sarah and Dean, cuddled up in bed. Fewer than 100 children a year are diagnosed with neuroblastoma in the UK.

Donations made via the campaign website, www.appeal4alfie.com, will go to help other children suffering from the condition.

Tarby very much

COMEDIAN Jimmy Tarbuck has presented a new minibus to a school for blind and partially-sighted children.

The comic, 70, handed over the keys for the specially-adapted £31,000 vehicle to the Royal London Society for the Blind (RLSB).

The 13-seat Fiat 35 Maxi, which has a tail lift for wheelchairs, will be used at the society's Dorton House School in Wildernesse Avenue, Seal, near Sevenoaks. 'Tarby' presented the keys to pupils in his role as president of the Variety Club Golf Society.

TO MARK its its first anniversary, the John Lewis Foodhall at Bluewater is hosting a cupcake cookery masterclass on Thursday for young people from the Fairbridge in Kent charity.

Chatham-based Fairbridge works with disadvantaged young people, building the confidence and motivation they need to change their lives through support and learning. The class will be led by experts Laura Cook and Mark Goldberg.

Third Labour leadership hopeful makes his pitch

By **MARIJKE COX**
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FORMER health secretary Andy Burnham is the latest senior Labour politician to visit Kent in a bid to win back party support.

The visit formed part of his leadership campaign, where the MP for Leigh is up against Ed and David Miliband, Ed Balls and Diane Abbott in the battle replace Gordon Brown as Labour chief.

Mr Burnham spoke to party members in Gillingham, before a second meeting in Gravesend, focusing on how Labour needs to reconnect with Kent.

He is the third candidate to visit the county since the general election, with David Miliband visiting Medway in May, followed by his brother Ed in July.

Speaking to KOS Media after his meetings on Monday, Mr Burnham said: "This is an important county if we want to win back support. This is why politicians have come here the last few months – it's why I've come here. It's a place Labour needs to win back.

"Given its geography, it is a strong region where we want to regain trust in Labour. We've got to spend time listening to people in Kent. This is why I came and why I'll definitely be back."

Mr Burnham said he was "saddened" by the loss of Labour support in the county at the election, where the party failed to win a single seat. In the county council elections in 2009 Labour managed to take just two seats in Kent. "The party has to reconnect with ordinary people on the street," he said.

ANDY BURNHAM: Focusing on Kent

"We had support before in Kent, and MPs from many walks of life, but we seemed to lose touch with people."

But the 40-year-old was confident red could be put back into Kent's political map.

"Many people voted Labour in past elections," he said. "This is about re-establishing that connection, getting back in touch with ordinary people from everyday life."

Mr Burnham said there were two issues he would focus on as Labour leader, and also as a party member.

"I want a society where young people from all backgrounds can get on in life," he said. "It is harder now for young people than it used to be. There are not so many life chances these days and I believe many are being exploited by unpaid internships – I want to see these scrapped.

"Care for older people is also extremely important. How do we help people live longer, happier lives? I believe my policy of a national care service like the NHS would benefit the south of England."

He added: "We need to address the issues that are important to people. It is also important that Labour comes up with a principled alternative to the coalition's spending plans.

"Deep cuts are not the only way. It can be done differently and we will do this in time for the spending review in the autumn. We should resist cuts that reduce hope for the young and help for the vulnerable."

Labour members in Kent said they were pleased the county was a focus for the party as the leadership battle geared up.

Cllr Vince Maple, from Medway Council, said: "It shows how seriously leadership candidates take the views of Kent and Medway.

"We've also seen increases in membership across the constituency Labour parties in Kent, which says to me people want to get involved with standing up against the Con-Dem cuts by joining the only progressive party."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

2012 Olympic Torch to blaze a path through cathedral city

By **HARRY COLLINS**

CANTERBURY Cathedral is set to welcome the Olympic Torch in the run-up to the London 2012 Games.

The International Olympic Committee – alarmed at disturbances on the route before the Beijing games – will not hold the traditional international relay.

Members fear protesters will disrupt the relay as the torch proceeds through sensitive areas. In 2008, protests were aimed at China's human rights record.

Instead a relay around the UK will be held.

Upon arrival in Britain, the torch will embark on a 70-day tour where it is expected to visit all 66 cities, the places events will take place, and 28 Unesco heritage sites, including Canterbury Cathedral.

The city last saw the flame in 1948 – the last time the Games were held in Britain.

Kent County Council's head of sport, leisure and Olympics, Chris Hespe, who is also chairman of the Kent 2012 Campaign, said Dover and its iconic White Cliffs was still in the frame as a point of entry for the famous torch.

Logistics

Cllr Hespe said: "Recently the organisers informed us that no decision has been made on the point of entry and that full discussions would be held with KCC about the Dover option prior to any decision being taken.

"We understand there are a number of areas that would like to accommodate the entry of the Olympic torch into the UK.

"We believe the case for Dover is strong, but understand the decision will be made by the organisers on logistical grounds".

The torch is set to arrive in Britain on Friday, May 18, 2012.

In 1948, London hosted the summer Olympics after a 12-year hiatus due to World War Two.

HMS Bicester was detailed to carry the flame across the English Channel and into England via Dover. The flame then travelled to London through Kent via Canterbury, Charing and Maidstone before continuing the journey to Wembley.

The Kent 2012 Campaign is partnered with KCC and is making sure Kent benefits from the London Olympics and Paralympics taking place on the county's doorstep.

Rare heron chick spotted in a flap

THE first young purple heron to be born in the UK has emerged from the nest at Dungeness RSPB reserve.

The young bird was seen on Tuesday morning by a volunteer on watch.

The RSPB's Phil Eglise said: "A large purple heron was seen clambering up willow bushes near the nest site in an apparent effort to try to gain height before flying.

"It was practising flapping its wings before flying around in a couple of brief circles above the nesting reedbed."

The bird was also brown and dull in appearance, lacking the dark stripes of the adult.

This is the first chick to venture out of the nest so far, but it is believed there is at least one more to come. The first sign the birds were nesting at the site came at the end of April and the RSPB set up a round-the-clock species protection scheme.

NY rap man's big respect to his Westgate Massive days

RESPECTED rap producer Lewis Parker says he will never forget his Kentish background, despite leaving the county in his quest for fame and fortune.

MUSIC: Parker

Years before moving to New York to work with some of the biggest names on the American hip-hop scene, a then teenage Parker developed his own unique style while living in a house opposite Canterbury's St Lawrence cricket ground.

And despite now residing thousands of miles away, the 33-year-old insists he is still a member of the 'Westgate Massive' that took its name from the historic tower on the edge of the cathedral city.

"When I lived in Kent the majority of people I knew were into hip-hop," he told KOS Media.

"I really embraced that and that's where my style was formed. Most of my good friends were DJs, record collectors or MCs, and when my first record came out it was all about representing the Westgate Massive and giving them shout-outs.

"Nobody at that point was representing Kent and Canterbury as hard as I was, and I felt the love back, too."

Parker, who attended Chaucer Technology College during his three years in Canterbury, received his big break in 1998, when he released his first LP – Masquerades and Silhouettes – through Massive Attack's own record label Melankolic.

But after five years of attempting to build a name for himself in the UK, the London-born talent decided he had hit a glass ceiling and moved to Queens, New York.

It proved to be a wise move, as Parker's career took off and enabled him to work with such stars as Ghostface Killah from the Wu-Tang Clan.

"I don't give a damn where I'm living," he said. "I could go the middle of the Amazon and still produce the same dope rhymes I do now. I didn't want to represent just one area. I wanted recognition on a worldwide scale, and that's why I moved to New York – to reach that next level.

"I've always been the underdog and the guy who has an album, but no music videos. I've always played the back role and at the moment I'm still in that same battle."

Safety 'failures' the reason for diver's death in paradise

Tour divemaster's 'sloppiness' partly blamed for Donna dying on seabed

DROWNED: Donna Newton died at sea

AN EXPERIENCED diver lost her life on a dream trip to the Galapagos Islands after a series of basic failures by tour organisers, a coroner has ruled, ***writes Ian Read***.

Gillingham-born Donna Newton, 40, died after running into difficulties during a dive off the scenic Pacific islands on Tuesday, October 6 last year.

Mid Kent Coroner Roger Sykes recorded a narrative verdicy, and said vital procedures to ensure underwater safety were not followed.

Donna should have been accompanied by a dive buddy who is supposed to help if she got into difficulty. But the buddy swam off on her own. The tour's divemaster also failed to watch over them.

Radio equipment tuned to an emergency beacon carried by divers was also found to not be switched on.

In his damning verdict, Mr Sykes said: "Her divemaster failed to keep watch over her and her dive buddy.

"Her dive buddy failed to signal to Donna and the divemaster that she had to ascend early and the divemaster failed to notice Donna had a loss of buoyancy control on her ascent probably caused by vomiting into her mask and mouthpiece.

"These were serious failures to conform to recognised diving practices."

Donna was last seen swimming behind some turtles 30 metres below the surface.

It was some time before divemaster Fabricio Carbo noticed she was missing.

She was found floating on her back with her mask off and blood and vomit around her nose. Her buoyancy jacket was inflated and she'd operated her emergency beacon, but the receiver aboard the dive boat was switched off.

Her mother Diana says her daughter's death should be a warning to others.

She said: "If I can stop another family going through the hell we have endured since October then it is something.

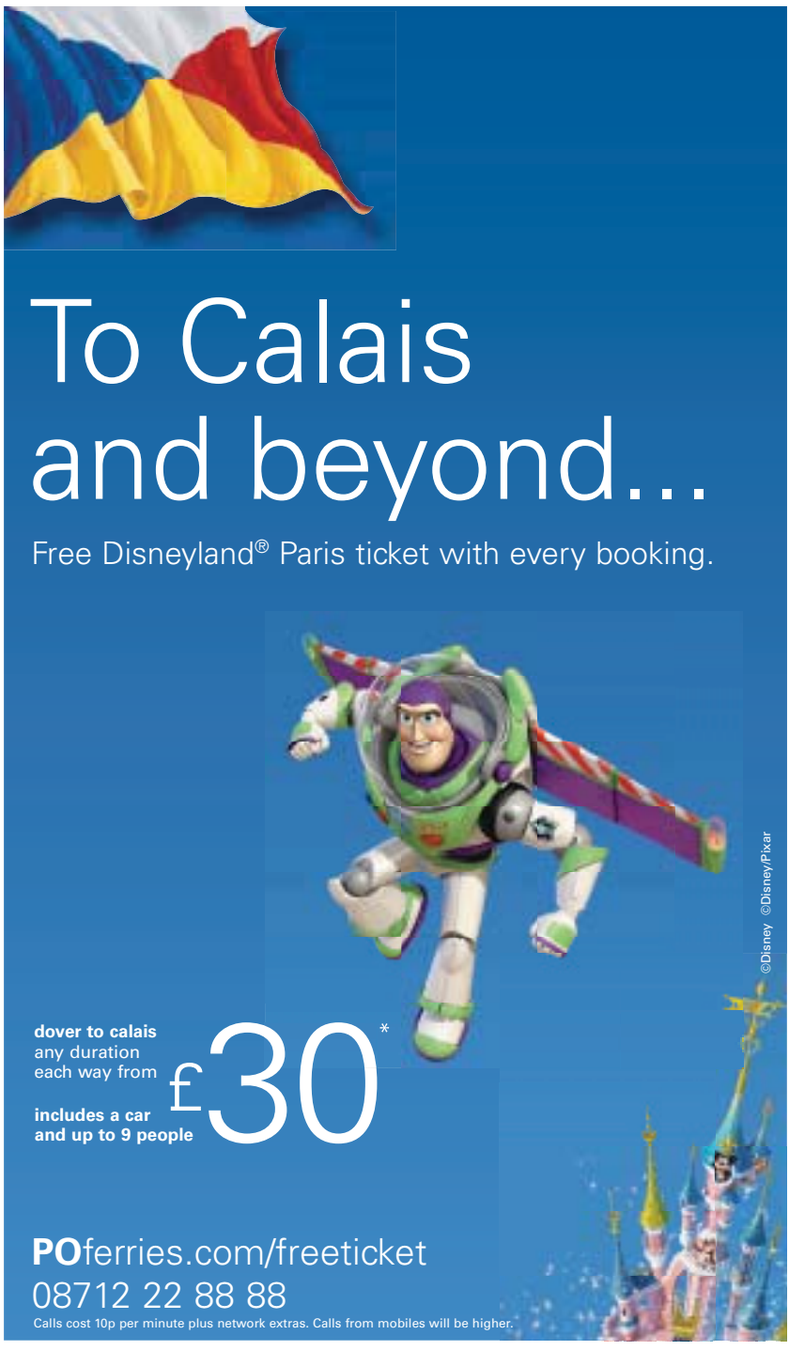
"Donna was very fit and would regularly swim a mile before breakfast. We couldn't go out to talk to the divemaster because of the cost. She worked hard and saved the money, only to die like that. I felt helpless.

"My daughter was thousands of miles away and I didn't know what had happened until two days later. I miss her very much."

An exprienced diver also on the tour told the inquest: "When first-time visitors dive the Galapagos their eyes are like saucers.

"It's incumbent on the divemaster to watch his charges like a sheep dog. I do not think there was much dive discipline going on.

"She was fighting for her life and nobody realised due to the divemaster's sloppiness."



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BRUTAL: One of the gang holds the dead fox

Experts' reward to find fox killers

KENT'S leading fox experts are offering a £1,000 reward to catch a bunch of thugs who beat a fox to death with a cricket bat.

The London gang call themselves the Urban Foxhunters, but expert John Bryant, from Tonbridge, said they are breaking several laws.

The group has defended their actions following outrage when a video of them beating the fox to death appeared on YouTube. It has since been removed as public anger against them rises.

The Urban Foxhunters said they were providing a "public service" by drugging foxes in Hackney neighbourhoods, and then avoiding any suffering by hammering them to death with a cricket bat while they are doped up.

The slaughter happened close to the home of twin baby girls that were seriously injured by a fox in June.

Mr Bryant has offered a cash reward for the successful prosecution of the gang members.

He told KOS Media: "This gang of five men are putting out drugged food for foxes. They then chased this fox around and beat it to death with a cricket bat. The police and RSPCA are looking at this, and I thought I would offer this £500 reward, which is being matched by the Fox Project, also based in Kent."

Police are investigating the fox's death.

Dogs' home sees an alarming rise in the number of dumped Staffies

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

THE Staffordshire bull terrier can be a cute and cuddly pet say the experts, so swapping them online for an MP3 player or PlayStation is no way to treat them.

The number of owners looking to get rid of the dogs is growing so fast the Kent branch of the Battersea Dogs Home is becoming overwhelmed, and horrified at the online bartering of the animals.

The Staffie has suffered bad press in the past, but the world-famous dogs' home at Brands Hatch says not all of them are vicious would-be child killers.

The home said 50 per cent of bull breeds and 43 per cent of its total intake are Staffies.

Some can be re-homed, but many are put down because irresponsible owners have no clue on how to care for them.

Some owners see them as status dogs and often train them to be aggressive, whereas in a loving home the animals can make great family pets.

Battersea Dogs Home took in 7,866 dogs last year, but of the 2,815 put down, 1,931 were healthy.

Of those 1,931, many were no longer able to mix with humans because they had been treated so appallingly and were a safety risk.

Now Battersea wants all dogs to be chipped, and even the dog licensing system reintroduced in an effort to at least eliminate the problem of strays. And if aggressive animals are found, their owners can be instantly traced and action taken if required.

Accessories

Battersea director of operations Scott Craddock said: "We need to highlight exactly what is going on and we feel we've come to a point where enough is enough. What people are doing to some of these dogs and the state they are coming in to us is completely unacceptable."

The number of Staffies arriving at Battersea has leapt 850 per cent since 1996, and wardens in Kent have been reporting a rise in strays.

RSPCA spokesman Tim Wass said: "In 2009, we killed 533 healthy dogs. And you'll notice I used the word 'kill' there, rather than 'put to sleep' or 'humanely euthanise'.

"There's been enough euphemism, we really need to tell it how it is."

The University of Bristol now estimates the UK's dog population has hit 10 million.

Department of Food, Rural Affairs and Agriculture under-secretary Lord Henley, responsible for dangerous dogs, is "not convinced" a dog licence would help much as responsible owners would be 'taxed' and the irresponsible would simply ignore it.

Battersea chief executive Claire Horton said: "The plight of dogs bred, bought and sold as accessories, weapons and status symbols and the unrelenting pressure rescue organisations are all facing needs to be known, and the cause? Irresponsible ownership and back street breeding.

"This is not just a Battersea Dogs and Cats Home problem; this is a bigger society problem affecting all animal welfare organisations, the police and all local authorities across the UK.

"It's not necessarily just about dogs either; it's often about crime, intimidation and anti-social behaviour."

ABANDONED: Staffies have had bad press

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Call for a united attack to get rail service on track

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

RAIL users are being urged to unite with politicians and pressure groups to push for improvements to Kent's train service.

It follows a meeting between transport minister Theresa Villiers and Kent County Council's cabinet member for highways Councillor Nick Chard about problems caused by the introduction of the High Speed One (HS1).

Cllr Chard is now calling on passengers to help create a united front to press the Government for better services.

"The rail franchise in Kent is due for renewal in 2012, or possibly 2014 if South-eastern is granted an extension," he said.

"Work needs to start now if we are going to shape the future of rail services for passengers in Kent. We want rail user groups to get in touch with us so we can present a properly coordinated case."

Since the new HS1 timetable was fully rolled out in December, services for the north and east of the county, Maidstone, and Deal, have been plagued with problems.

Some of the 'classic' slower services running between Maidstone and London were cut and passengers from areas including Thanet and Herne Bay found they were paying more money for a reduced, poorer service on the conventional lines.

At times, some passengers returning from London to Margate found it took two hours, instead of one hour 35 minutes.

"That's slower than in 1927," said Thanet North MP Roger Gale, who has been campaigning for improved services since HS1 – which takes just over an hour from east Kent to St Pancras – was introduced.

"It is 76 miles to London – if it takes two hours that means the train is travelling at just 35mph. When the HS1 is running late, the classic service is stopped and held back – the passengers on the reduced, overcrowded classic service have to watch as the almost empty HS1 goes past.

"The service along the Kent coast has been a disaster. It is slower, £13 more expensive if you buy a day ticket, and can only take people to St Pancras."

Mr Gale said there are a number of things that needed to be done.

"The original timetable needs to be brought back for the many people who are travelling to other London stations like Cannon Street, London Bridge or Victoria," he said.

"Modern signalling needs to be brought in so trains can move on both sides of the track.

"At the moment the so-called fast train can't actually move at high speed along the Kent coast until it passes the Medway towns."

Mr Gale is also pushing for a train link from Manston, which he says would take only an hour.

"KCC have just had a study done into the upgrading of the line between Ashford and Ramsgate," he said. "It wouldn't cost the earth and it would be possible to get to Victoria from there in one hour."

A rail summit was held at County Hall in March to discuss the situation and another one for later this year is being organised.

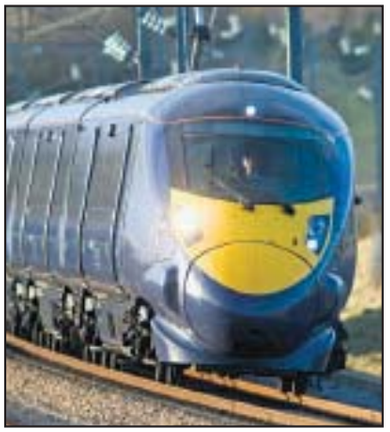
Cllr Chard said: "It is so important that rail user groups come forward so we can discuss how to move things forward and look at what we all want from our rail network in terms of the new franchise.

"We need a united Kent voice and I want people to make a contribution by saying what they think is needed."

Anybody wishing to get involved or make a comment can email nick.chard@kent.gov.uk.

Picture: PAUL TOEMAN

TALKS: Theresa Villiers



ANGER: HS1 has failed many rail commuters

Red-faced Eurotunnel's apology to passengers left on-board train

EUROTUNNEL passengers bound for France were left fuming when they ended up on a round trip back to Folkestone after they were forgotten about and left on a train, ***writes James Alexandre***.

The seven cars and the people travelling in them were at the end of the last carriage, which staff failed to unload at the Channel Tunnel terminal in France.

The oversight was due to an earlier car-oil spill at the front compartment that had to be kept empty for cleaning, but staff didn't notice there were still others at the back waiting to disembark.

It was only when the train started to return to England that alarmed passengers realised the mistake and alerted crew-members.

In total, they spent two-and-a-half hours crossing the English Channel three times before they could set off on their onward journeys from the French side at Coquelles.

A Eurotunnel official said the mistake was down to human error.

"The crew apologised immediately and we arranged for managers to be present when they arrived back in England," he said.

"We put them straight on to the next train back, gave them a full refund and offered them a free Flexipass return trip, our first-class ticket. This is the first time this has happened and it's a little embarrassing, but we have apologised profusely.

"The incident is still being investigated and it was out of the blue, but we are definitely treating this as human error."

He said the first compartment of the last carriage had been taken out of service "for a few return trips due to the safety aspect and the smell".

But staff at the station assumed the entire wagon must have been empty when the incident took place last Saturday, with the first outgoing train from Folkestone at 08.50am.

The company, which runs both the Channel Tunnel and the shuttle service, recently reported losses of 44.8 million euros for the first half of this year, due to delays over insurance compensation for the 2008 fire.

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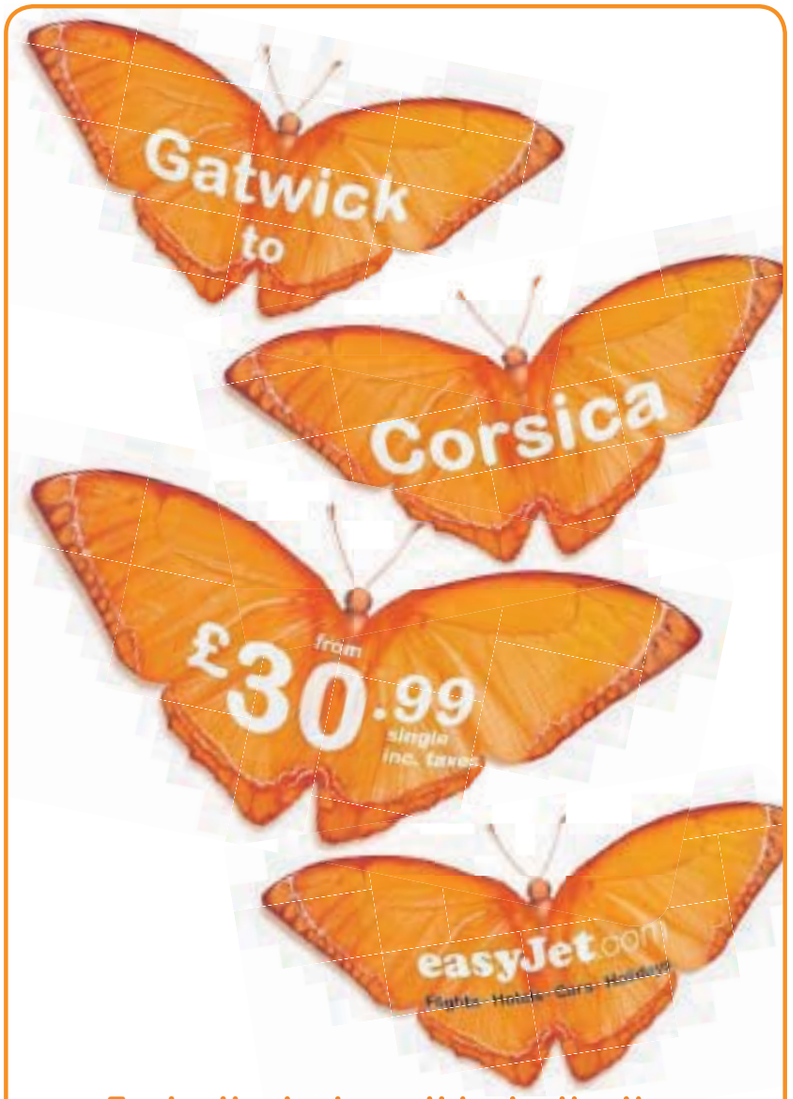

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'Churchilliana' to go online

Great Briton's archive of papers will be available to all, while his dentures fetch £15,200 at auction

REVERED: Winston Churchill's famous salute

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

A VAST collection of Sir Winston Churchill material, from school reports to a personal copy of his 'finest hour' speech, will soon be available online.

The Churchill Archive Trust has agreed a deal with publisher Bloomsbury to make more than one million items about the wartime Prime Minister, who lived at Chartwell, near Westerham, available online in 2012.

Among the archives being digitised are some 2,500 boxes of letters, telegrams, manuscripts and photographs.

It will show not only his greatest moments as PM, including drafts of his famous speeches such as the rousing "we will fight them on the beaches" and "never in the field of human conflict" from 1940, but also his human side with material that shows his love of gambling and drinking.

There are also items relating to Churchill's menagerie of pets including the black geese, sheep and pigs he kept at Chartwell.

Meanwhile, a set of Churchill's false teeth, credited with giving the skilled orator his characteristically slurred diction, went under the hammer in Norfolk for £15,200.

Auctioneer Keys said the partial set of dentures were a spare set of what the Royal College of Surgeons once captioned "The teeth that saved the world?"

The teeth, which were estimated to reach between £4,000-5,000, went to an unnamed collector from Gloucestershire, who also owns the microphone through which Churchill announced the end of the war.

RESERVE: A set of Churchill's spare dentures

Antiques valuer Andrew Bullock said Churchill suffered from terrible teeth and gums and needed complicated dentistry from childhood.

"The delicacy and special design of the teeth have been widely credited with helping Churchill speak clearly and effectively," he said.

"Churchill lived in fear of losing his false teeth – and hence his speaking voice – and insisted that spare dentures always be on hand."

Amazing

The dentures, which were sold last Thursday, were carefully designed to ensure that he kept his slurred speaking voice, which was a deliberate affectation designed to overcome a childhood lisp.

Other items of 'Churchilliana' also went under the hammer at Keys including a damaged Victorian Boulle cigar box he gave his valet, sold for £4,500, and two packs of playing cards made for Churchill that fetched £1,000.

Churchill showered gifts on Norman McGowan, who served as his valet from 1949-54, and Mr McGowan's family entered 11 lots in the auction.

"It's not the sort of thing you give away lightly," Mr Bullock said about the cigar box.

"The base is split – which makes it no good as a cigar box because the air can get in. So that is probably why he gave it away.

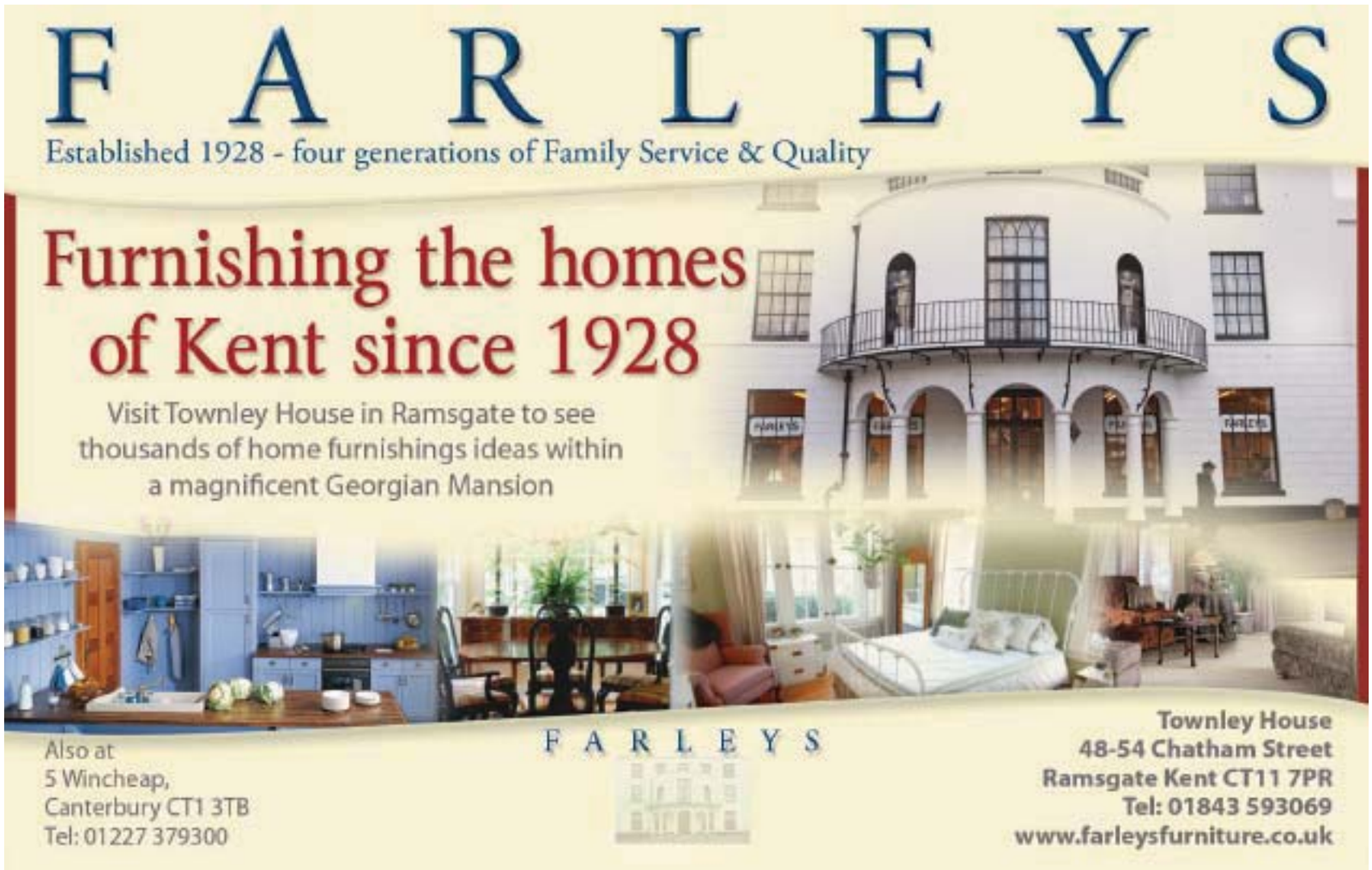
"I have got a delightful vision of Churchill picking the box up and banging it on the desk causing the box to split, then deciding to gift it to his valet."

When the Churchill archives go live on the web in 2012, schools, homes and libraries around the world will have access to an amazing amount of items.

Churchill biographer Sir Martin Gilbert said: "The Churchill Papers collection is an Aladdin's cave of historical riches, which it has been my privilege to explore.

"I strongly endorse this project, which will enable everyone to have access to Sir Winston Churchill's writings and correspondence.

"It is a project that will bring the history of the first 60 years of the 20th century, and the remarkable story of Britain's greatest Prime Minister, into the classroom and the home."



Now you register a death at the library

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A MASSIVE shake-up in public services could see people registering births and deaths with librarians.

A six-month pilot project is already being trialled in Ashford and Sevenoaks libraries where registration services have been relocated.

Library staff are being trained to register births and deaths, with registrars being trained to become librarians.

The changes form part of a scheme looking at how library and registration services can be delivered together.

It comes after Kent County Council revealed it has to make £15 million in savings this year as a result of government cuts to local authority grants.

Although concerns have been raised by public service trade union Unsion, KCC said the trial would help look at the best way to deliver registrations.

"It will give us an opportunity to test how the services can work together to provide customers with better access at a more convenient and familiar location in the community," a spokeswoman said.

"We also want to explore how we can make the most of our premises and staffing resources across the county."

Initial plans saw an over-the-counter service where people wanting to register a birth or death would have to do so in front of other library users.

But Unison argued this would be insinsitive for members of the public registering deaths.

Concern

David Lloyd, the Kent branch's general secretary, said: "Some people raised concerns about the way in which registrations were to be carried out. They were worried about the practice, where if you were registering a death it would be done over the counter.

"We think we have won on this point and it has been agreed there will be private rooms available for registrations."

Mr Lloyd said although there have been no formal objections to the changes, the merging of services is a concern to the union.

He added: "We've not been made aware of any job losses, but this is something we will keep an eye on.

"Staff have not objected to changes, but there are some worries about what is happening. We really need to see how it's all going to work before we bring these up."

A KCC spokeswoman said: "The results of the pilot are being carefully assessed and evaluated before any decisions are taken that might impact on staff in the longer term.

"Any changes to the terms and conditions and jobs descriptions of staff will be subject to full consultation with the trade unions and the staff elected."

She added: "The Kent Registration Service has been offering birth and death registration at a number of locations for some time, including Gateways, which provide council services from town centres, and hospitals."

"Every effort is being made to ensure customers register in a private area where their privacy is respected."

A survey is being carried out to gather feedback from the public.

Thefts a drain on police time

SOME 76 cast-iron drain covers have been stolen from Bexley's roads.

Police say they were taken between April 9-July 26, probably to be sold as scrap as the price of metals continues to soar.

The replacement cost to the council could run into thousands of pounds, and Acting Supt Dave McLaren said: "My main concern is that road users are being put at serious risk as the thieves leave a gaping hole in the road."

Park's rare disease 'reunion'

CHILDREN from around the world with the rare ageing disease of progeria will be at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park on August 8.

Progeria is a progressive terminal condition that accelerates the process of ageing to about eight times the normal rate. The average lifespan is about 13 years.

There are 53 known cases of progeria around the world and only two in the UK, including Hayley Okines, 12, from Bexhill, who is hosting the 'reunion'.

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Immigration minister Damian Green promises to stop blight of human trafficking

ACTION MAN: Ashford's Damian Green

Anglo-French forces combine to crush people smuggling ring

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

KENT MP and immigration minister Damian Green has revealed that British and French forces have smashed a major ring that traffics in human misery.

Police on both sides of the English Channel arrested 26 people believed to be responsible for smuggling hundreds of illegal immigrants into the county.

Eight of those picked up were in Britain.

Co-ordinated raids were carried out in Kent and France on Monday, and sources say this is probably the biggest joint operation of its kind.

Mr Green said: "Secure border controls are an absolute priority if we are to put an end to abuses of the system and prevent people from coming to the UK through illegal routes.

"That is why I am committed to working with my French counterpart to continue to improve security, and why we will continue with our successful summer operations against illegal immigration."

He added: "This operation demonstrates how crucial it is that the UK Border Agency, Serious Organised Crime Agency, the police, and French law enforcement work together to crackdown on immigration crime, and put a stop to the trafficking that preys on the vulnerable and destroys lives."

Those arrested are suspected of charging up to £4,000 per person and the authorities allege they were smuggling people from Albania and Sri Lanka.

During the joint operation dozens of would-be immigrants were found in 'holding stations' awaiting movement to the next stage.

Attracted

The clampdown comes after a major deal was signed last year between the two nations to tackle such problems.

Before the general election, the Tories and Ashford MP Mr Green, promised to do more to tackle the problem of people smuggling.

The French acted to shut down and bulldoze the huge refugee camp at Sangatte known as The Jungle, but more and more migrants are turning up in the coastal town of Calais and are still trying to cross the Channel to Kent, attracted many say by a promise of an easy life on benefits.

The French government has been at pains to deflect this attitude, saying free houses and money are not routinely handed out to illegal aliens.

Britain is spending £15 million to tighten border controls and the French say this recent operation is just the start of a new initiative to end the problem once and for all.

The Home Office said the operation was co-ordinated by the Joint Intelligence Unit in Folkestone, which consists of the UKBA, Soca, Kent police, the French border police and the French anti-illegal immigration agency.

FOUND: Stowaways caught on board

Trio sniffed out at border check

A LORRY containing three Indian stowaways was heading for Canterbury when it was stopped by border officials.

The trio of men were spotted in the vehicle by UK Border Agency officers in Calais after a sniffer dog picked up their scent.

The German-registered freight lorry carrying what was described as "mixed goods" was searched and the men were found in the trailer. The stowaways were handed to French border police and the lorry continued to the UK.

Officials said the German driver could face fines if it's decided he didn't do enough to secure his vehicle.

Carole Upshall, the UK Border Agency's director for European operations, said: "This is exactly why we base so many of our staff in France and Belgium – to stop illegal immigrants before they can reach the UK.

"As well as using sniffer dogs, our staff also have heartbeat detectors and carbon dioxide probes to detect the presence of people hiding in lorries."

Last year, more than 29,000 illegal attempts to cross the English Channel were prevented.

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Dressing up is optional while taking part costs **£5 per person. All proceeds** go to Martha. Spectators are welcome and refreshments will be available throughout the morning.

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To register your interest or to find out more call Carol Baalham on 01304 610447 or email CarolBaalham@marthatrust.org.uk

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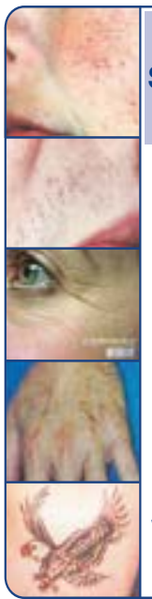

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Marine unit and intelligence experts work together to protect coast and country

By JILL HURST
jill.hurst@kosmedia.co.uk

If terror threat surfaces, we'll be ready for it

A LEADING counter-terrorism expert has identified "critical infrastructure" in Kent that, if attacked, could paralyse the UK.

Professor David Sloggett has been drafted in by Kent Police to identify entry routes and targets for extremists set on causing maximum impact.

The Isle of Sheppey's gas facility, with its huge storage chambers and links to the national grid, nearby petrol stores and the regular passage of fuel tankers have all been identified as potential targets.

Speaking to KOS Media, the security specialist said: "We must seek to understand contemporary terrorism, using lessons from the past and the resources we have, to prevent future attacks."

Prof Sloggett said the hijack of the freight tanker Arctic Sea in 2009 was a reminder that terrorists could be operating close to home.

Pirates boarded the ship in Swedish waters and sailed the vessel through the Strait of Dover towards West Africa's Atlantic coast without being detected. "We need to think about a combination of the Arctic Sea hijack and the Mumbai terrorist attack with the power to transmit such an event around the world," he said.

Any major terror attack would need a high level of planning and harbours such as Queenborough, with its all-tide landing, could be a potential stop-off point during reconnaissance trips, he warned.

Det Supt Andrew Lyttle leads the management of frontier operations. He said: "Kent has long been seen as a thoroughfare for criminal activity, whether illegal immigration, sex workers, drugs or terrorist activity.

"While it is important for people to be aware of the risks, they should be reassured there is a strong surveillance presence.

"Next time you see a boat at sea, regardless of whether it is a pleasure craft or a commercial liner, we already know about it.

"If it has entered Kent waters, it will have been boarded already or risk-assessed. The security of the London Olympics is now a key component for the maritime team. And for those living in or visiting the area, it's important they have a sense of well-being and are aware of our presence."

The 2012 Olympics has presented the Home Office with its biggest peacetime security operation since the 1940s.

Home Office advisers have warned there is a risk of "displacing" a terror attack to other parts of the UK because of the intense focus on the Games. The risk of attack is graded as 'severe' by the authorities.

The anti-terror hotline is on 0800 789321.

TARGET?: Gas booms at Sheppey

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

AHOY THERE: Greek-flagged ship is boarded by unit officer, inset

Another busy day at the 'office' for marine unit

DAYS like the one I spent with the police marine tactical unit remind me of how lucky I am to do my job, *writes Jill Hurst*.

Come rain or shine, this hardy lot are out on patrol, quietly getting on with the job of protecting us. The marine unit doesn't get a great deal of publicity, nor do they generally seek it, so I was delighted to be invited to spend a day at sea with them.

I met Sgt Mark Wigmore and his team at Sheerness Docks, home to the 34-tonne Tamar class C boat, Princess Alexandra III.

Safety briefing complete, the 54ft vessel left port. Out at sea Sgt Wigmore introduced me to the automatic identification system (AIS) – a short-range coastal tracking system used on ships and by traffic services, such as the police, for identifying and locating vessels by electronically exchanging information.

Sgt Wigmore explained that if there's a ship on the water he'll be able to find it on AIS. Moreover, he'll be able to access data including where its been and its destination.

"If a vessel is in our waters it'll be on the AIS system and if it's on the system you can be sure we've already boarded it or it's been risk-assessed," he told me.

This is essential in the fight against crime. Kent has long been a thoroughfare for the sex trade, illegal immigrants, gun and drug smugglers and, more recently, terrorism activity.

Under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000, the crew are permitted to board a vessel and conduct investigations, and it doesn't take too long before we pull up alongside a large cargo ship.

Sgt Wigmore explains the Greek vessel, Georgis Nikolos, is a 'tramper' used to transport anything from wood, to fuel or grain. A mercenary of the waters. "We'll ask the master for permission to go on board and once up on deck we'll be looking for anything that stands out as strange."

The team check passports for forgeries, the crew log for any new additions, and find out if anyone has been ashore and what they did. They'll also be on the lookout for tensions on board, particularly religious tensions.

"It's a two-way communication," said Sgt Wigmore, "Ninity-nine per cent of people on board will be professional seamen, but there'll be some who have recently joined the crew and we want to know why. Much of the time it's about sharing information. We can learn a lot from talking to the captain. There's an entire community on the sea and often it will act as our eyes and ears. It's about being a familiar presence and building up relationships and intelligence."

The crew cover the area from the QE2 bridge at Dartford down to Dungeness, the Stour, the Swale and the Medway. They are also responsible for the rivers. It's a vast coastline and a huge responsibility that includes thousands of small pleasure craft and yachts, as well as commercial liners and cargo ships.

Sgt Wigmore assured me a sophisticated team of intelligence experts back at base was feeding information from hundreds of sources received from home shores and around the world. The unit has certainly come a long way since its first vessel – a rowing boat operated out of Rochester shortly after World War Two.

PATROL: Princess Alexandra III

COASTING: Sgt Mark Wigmore, left with his colleague Dean Richards

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FULL FLOW: Scene from Watery Trail: River Medway, 1938

FANCY DRESS: 'Procession Gazette', 1930s, Maidstone

FLYING BOAT: Short Sunderland at Rochester, 1930s

River memories come flooding back

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

ARCHIVE footage of the River Medway and the many industries and communities to have adorned its banks has gone online for the first time.

Thanks to a major research project being undertaken by Screen Archive South East, scores of videos, photographs and voice recordings have been made available to encourage people to share their memories of the 70-mile waterway.

A series of free screenings, talks and discovery days has already been held at locations in Medway and Maidstone, with more planned for Tonbridge in October.

The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and run in partnership with Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, the Centre for Kentish Studies, and Maidstone and Tonbridge libraries.

THIRSTY WORK: In the hop garden, 1937

Footage stored in the collection include the 1938 silent film Watery Trail, which chronicles the entire length of the river, and another about St Bart's Hospital in Rochester.

Stuart McLeod – head of the South East branch of the Heritage Lottery Fund – said the initiative provided a fantastic historical resource for local people.

He added: "These films capture many aspects of the community history of Kent and Medway that have either disappeared or are in decline, providing a unique record of everyday life and work in past times.

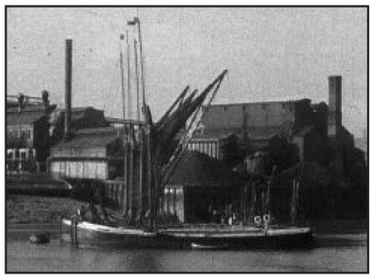
"The project will use this resource to jog memories and encourage people to make their own contribution."

According to Medway Council, people have lived, worked and found their entertainment on the river since the Stone Age, with the Romans building the first bridge, between Rochester and Strood.

The waterway flows from just inside the West Sussex border to the point where it enters the Thames Estuary and has a catchment area of 930 square miles – the largest in southern England.

Perhaps its most famous landmark is Chatham Dockyard, which was home to the Royal Navy for 400 years before the Thatcher government ordered its closure in 1984. All material generated from the Medway on Screen project will be added to the website and used to create an accompanying DVD.

Screen Archive South East director Frank Gray said: "We're very excited by this project because these films of the River Medway reveal hidden histories we are keen to uncover. By sharing these films we hope to encourage everyone to contribute memories of the river and its many stories."



RIVER VIEW: from St Bart's Hospital, 1929

Visit the Screen Archive Medway section of www.brighton.ac.uk for more information about the scheme, including dates of forthcoming talks and discovery days.

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FEEL-GOOD SHOPPING

Justice 'lottery' if magistrates' court is closed

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

PEOPLE living in one of the UK's most deprived areas face "betrayal" if the Government goes ahead with plans to close their nearest magistrates' court.

Conservative MP Gordon Henderson says rail links between the Isle of Sheppey and the mainland are so poor the closure of the court in Sittingbourne will turn justice into a "public transport lottery".

He also criticised the Ministry of Justice for producing a map with its consultation document that failed to include the island.

Speaking in one of the final Commons debates before Parliament broke for summer recess, Mr Henderson appealed to ministers to listen to his concerns and save the court from closure.

Vulnerable

He said: "People without their own transport and who live at the east end of the island will be particularly hard hit by the closure of Sittingbourne magistrates' court. If somebody from Leysdown was involved in a court case held in Medway that happened to finish late in the afternoon, it would be almost impossible for them to get home by public transport.

"By the time they would have walked from the court in Chatham to the railway station, caught a train to Sittingbourne and then another to Sheerness, they would be faced with missing the last bus to Leysdown. Closing our last remaining court in Swale would be a betrayal of some very vulnerable people."

Swale – which consists of Sittingbourne, Sheppey and Faversham – has a population of 132,000 and is the second most deprived area in Kent behind Thanet.

And of the 15 neighbourhoods in the borough that are in the 20 per cent most deprived areas in the UK, all but four are on Sheppey.

The Ministry of Justice is planning to close 103 magistrates' courts in England and Wales – including Sittingbourne and Ashford – in an attempt to save at least £15 million a year in running costs, plus an extra £22m in building maintenance.

However, Mr Henderson is angry at the "glaring omission" from the consultation document that has been circulated.

He said: "The map that was conveniently and thoughtfully provided to show the relative locations of the courts has airbrushed Sheppey from existence, which is particularly worrying for those of us who live on the island.

"To remove the island from the equation when considering the future of our only magistrates' court is simply unacceptable.

"To suggest, as the document does, that somebody living at the eastern end of Sheppey could travel to Chatham or Canterbury in less than 60 minutes is laughable.

"It is a journey that even with the right connections can take two hours.

"Closing Sittingbourne magistrates' court and forcing defendants and witnesses to travel either to Canterbury or Chatham would turn justice into a public transport lottery."

Animal park says 'ape-y' 50th Mouila

EVEN gorillas enjoy unwrapping their birthday presents, as Mouila proved on her 50th birthday.

The female Western lowland gorilla at Howletts Wild Animal Park wasted no time in tearing open the presents her keepers had got her to reveal some special treats inside.

Mouila's milestone makes her the oldest Western lowland gorilla in the UK and one of the oldest of her kind worldwide.

Howletts and Port Lympne house the largest group of Western lowland gorillas in human care and Mouila has successfully reared eight offspring and is now a grandmother.

Three of her sons are in the bachelor group at Port Lympne, one son, Oumbi, has gone on breed at another zoo, and some of her daughters have travelled to breeding programmes overseas – vital for the future of this endangered species.

Their numbers are in rapid decline because of the bushmeat trade, deforestation and the ebola virus.

Head gorilla keeper Lorna Wanless said: "Mouila was born in 1960, and in human years would be around 100 making this birthday a real milestone for her."

Picture: DAVE ROLFE

OLD GIRL: Mouila's 50th birthday made her the oldest Western lowland gorilla alive in the UK

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Algae kills 100s of fish at lake

HUNDREDS of fish have died after an algal bloom caused oxygen levels to plummet at Southmere Lake, in Abbey Wood, Bexley.

Environment Agency fisheries officers discovered the dead and distressed fish last Sunday. They say the algal bloom is believed to have been caused by the long period of warm weather.

Three Environment Agency aerators were put in the lake to reoxygenate the water, and were helping to keep several thousand small fish and many larger carp alive. Eels, which are in decline in the UK, were also in the lake.

Two prize carp that were about to die were removed from Southmere Lake and placed in a holding tank.

Other species in the lake include roach, bream, tench, small perch, silver fish, and large pike.

Emma's 'honey' of a panto role

FORMER soap star Emma Barton has been unveiled as the latest big name on the Central Theatre Christmas panto bill.

The actress, best known as EastEnders' Honey Mitchell, will take on the role of the Fairy Sugarsnap in this year's production of Jack and The Beanstalk.

She will star alongside Britain's Got Talent finalist Paul Burling and CBeebies' Mister Maker, aka Gillingham-born Phil Gallagher, when she takes to the Chatham stage.

Barton said: "I am absolutely thrilled to be playing the fairy, a role I've never played before.

"It's going to be so different to Roxy Hart and Honey Mitchell. I can't wait to start."

Boris refuses to give up on airport 'pipe dream'

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

PROPOSALS for 'Boris Island' need to be looked at "seriously", according to the London mayor – whose latest comments have started a new bout of Tory in-fighting.

The capital's leader Boris Johnson wants to see a huge airport on a purpose-built island in the Thames estuary – a plan than has generated huge opposition from his Tory Party colleagues in Kent.

Now Mayor Johnson, in a major article written for the Daily Telegraph newspaper on the scheme dubbed Boris Island, says the airport is vital to take traffic from Heathrow, which is starting to groan under the pressure of evermore flights.

After getting stuck in Istanbul because of problems at Heathrow with a faulty air traffic control aerial, Mayor Johnson wrote: "Heathrow was the problem because Heathrow is a doomed daily attempt to pour a quart into a pint pot and, with our hub international airport already running at 99 per cent capacity, we need a radical solution."

He rules out a third runway in west London as "environmental barbarism" which will erode the quality of life for millions.

Mayor Johnson said demand for flight will continue to boom, and wrote: "It is obvious the current policy of no new runways anywhere in the South East is utterly ridiculous.

STRAIGHT TALKING: Tory MP Gordon Henderson (left) thinks Boris Johnson's plan is 'dead'

"Of course, the good people of Sussex will object to a new runway at Gatwick, and the same points will doubtless be made against any expansion of Luton, Stansted or any other terrestrial location in the vicinity of London.

"That is why some people are arguing for a clean, green 24-hour hub airport that could be built in the Thames estuary, far from human habitation, with no more threat to bird life than there is at Heathrow.

Bonkers

"I don't know if they are correct. But we are surely right to look at it seriously.

"Look at the potential for growth at Schiphol [Amsterdam], Paris, Frankfurt – our immediate economic rivals – all with more runways than Heathrow.

"And even if the Government was so mad and bad as to break its word and build a third runway at Heathrow, that would still not be enough.

"Ataturk International [in Istanbul] already has three runways and they are planning a fourth. We cannot, to coin a phrase, go on like this. It is time for vision."

Boris Island has been opposed by Medway Council and Kent County Council, and several of the county's Tory MPs signed an Early Day Motion criticising it as "ill-conceived".

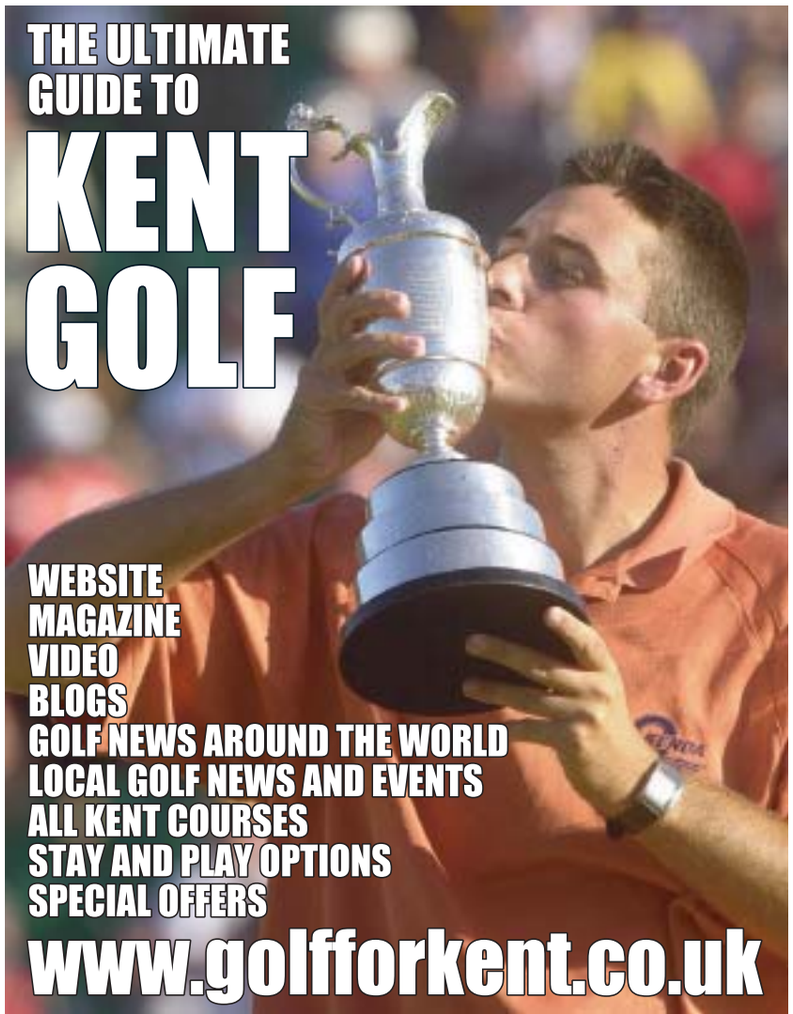
This week Sittingbourne and Sheppey Tory MP Gordon Henderson said he had received a written assurance from transport minister Philip Hammond that no new airports would be built in the South East.

Mr Henderson said: "I know Boris is still burbling on about building an airport in the Thames Estuary, but quite frankly his idea is bonkers.

"His continuing fixation with promoting the idea of an island airport is all about building up support in west London for his mayoral re-election campaign.

"Personally, I think Boris will come a cropper if he is not careful, because people will start to question how much of London's council tax revenue is being wasted on this pipe dream.

"Come on Boris, it is time to realise that the parrot really is dead."



A PERFECT HOST: Chilham Castle will hold the two-day eventing trails later this month

Tycoon opens up castle to stage eventing horse trials

THE BRITISH Eventing Horse Trials are coming back to Chilham Castle – and the event has been extended to run over two days.

It is the fourth time the trials have been held at the home of spread-betting tycoon Stuart Wheeler and his wife Tessa.

The castle near Canterbury is not normally open to the public, so the trials on August 14-15, offer a rare opportunity to walk in its beautiful parkland and enjoy panoramic views of north Kent and Canterbury Cathedral.

KOS Media is a sponsor of the trials. On the first day there will be two classes, the BE 90 and the BE 100 while second day will have the biggest (Novice) and the smallest (BE 80) fences in operation. Organisers anticipate a full entry of 380 riders.

After completing the dressage section riders will have to show precision and skill in the showjumping ring. Finally there will be the thrills and spills of Chilham Castle's cross-country course.

Tessa Wheeler said: "I'm delighted to welcome guests to our home; the team work so hard at making this event a success for everyone. We have always welcomed dogs on leads, and this year on the Sunday they can join in the fun by participating in the fun dog show."

Villagers' power to OK new homes building raises fears for future of our green fields

RURAL campaigners have warned against villagers being given too much power to decide when and where new houses are built, ***writes Steve Knight***.

The Right to Build initiative, which was announced last week, aims to provide small numbers of affordable homes in areas where high prices are driving people away.

Under the plan villages would be able to form local trusts and hold a referendum to decide if house-building should go ahead, without the need for council planning permission.

However, Protect Kent chairman Richard Knox-Johnston said it was important the proposals do not lead to building in the green belt.

"We welcome anything that builds and strengthens village life and keeps it alive," he said. "That's important, as well as anything that increases local democracy.

"But we don't know the full detail of what's planned at the moment. If it's just for affordable housing then there are occasions when this is right, but if we end up talking about executive housing then that's opening the door to building on green land and we would have major concerns about that."

Mr Knox-Johnston said that while doubting many villagers would welcome large-scale building developments, there were some occasions when people would be grateful of decision-making powers.

Bureaucracy

He pointed to a recent planning application in Stockbury, near Sittingbourne, where the majority of residents were in favour of a scheme to build five-10 new affordable homes to prevent the village turning into a haven for London commuters.

However, Maidstone council said no because it felt the houses were not sustainable.

Rodney Williamson – county secretary of the Kent Association of Local Councils – said parish and town councils were probably better placed than villagers to make such decisions.

He added: "Parish councils are elected bodies and are closest to the people in the communities they serve. We feel they're already equipped to take on extra responsibilities in the main, although some may not wish to get further involved.

"It's a difficult issue because you can't always say 'let's make life totally simple'.

"There's a need to reduce some of the bureaucracy, but in doing so we need to make sure everyone is protected.

"We can't just take legislation out of things and allow people to run riot."

The Right to Build initiative is part of Prime Minister David Cameron's 'Big Society' idea of allowing more decisions to be made locally. It was announced by housing minister Grant Shapps, who said he envisages small developments of fewer than 20 homes being decided on by villagers.

Mr Knox-Johnston said he hoped the proposals would not give rise to shady property developers like Matt Crawford from the popular BBC radio show the Archers, who trick villagers into backing their proposals.

"He's the sort of person we would have major concerns about," he said.

"People who convince others they have a scheme that will benefit them, when actually it will only harm their community."

44-year-old given five years for sex attacks on girls

A MAN has been has been sentenced to five years in prison after admitting sexually assaulting two young girls.

JAIL: Forrester

Dean Forrester, of Gordon Road, Cliftonville, was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court. The unemployed 44-year-old is will appear on the sex offenders' register for the rest of his life.

The offences took place in Thanet in November last year and involved girls under the age of eight.

Det Sgt John Cooper said: "Kent Police remain determined to seek out those individuals who abuse children.

"We are committed to identifying offenders and bringing them before the courts."

SOME 59 per cent of readers who voted in a kentnews.co.uk online poll do not plan to attend the Olympics in 2012.

Although much of Kent is under an hour away from the Olympic site in east London, only 41 per cent of voters are planning to attend the sporting spectacular.

Baby video plea after burglary

THIEVES who took cameras containing video and pictures of the first days of a couple's newborn baby have been urged to hand over the memory cards to police.

A video camera was taken with a laptop, a Fuji camera and two Nintendo DS consoles when burglars broke in through the back door of a Faversham home last Saturday.

PC Steve Hobbs said: "I appeal to those who carried out this burglary to return in the memory cards.

"They contain photos of the couple's holiday and footage of the first days of their new baby's life and are irreplaceable.

"The raiders couldn't have known what was on the cameras, but I urge them to do the right thing and post them to us."

Big Brother Sam is right at home

THE latest entrant to the Big Brother house grew up in Ashford.

Sam Pepper, who describes himself as a graffiti artist, now lives in London but has strong connections with the town.

A team from the programme's sister show Big Brother's Little Brother were due to film his family in Victoria Park this week, but the visit was cancelled due to bad weather.

The 21-year-old, who went into the house on Friday last week, has already caused a stir by accusing two of his fellow housemates of faking a romance so they can sell their story after they leave the hit Channel 4 show, now in its 10th and final season.

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Online view

By **JANE CONNOLLY**
jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

MODERN technology is putting history in the frame with an innovative new online archive.

Historypin offers the chance to see the past in a 21st century context, by allowing internet users to view archive photographs 'pinned' above a modern view of the same street, building or landmark.

This means people in Kent can see how our towns and villages have changed over the years, while the double-layering system ensures locations are clearly identified.

Historypin has been developed by social movement We Are What We Do, in partnership with Google. For some time Google Maps and Street View have been allowing people to take a cyber stroll along any street in the world.

Now it is possible to picture the past and learn about the stories behind the images. Nick Stanhope, managing director of We Are What We Do, explained that the company's drive to tackle social issues led to the creation of the communal resource.

"Historypin is mainly based around intergenerational behaviour," he said. "We are

EBB AND FLOW: River Medway, Maidstone, 1932, when barges were a common sight

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of the way we once were

UNCOMMON VIEW: Mount Ephraim and The Common, Tunbridge Wells, 1910

TRANQUIL: Water Lane, Smarden, 1935

SLOWER PACE: Ightham village, 1952

looking at problems across generations which have a lot of levels, such as exclusion of older people and negative impressions across generations.

"We did lots of research and looked at the simple things people could do to address that. One idea was spending time around old photos and sharing the stories behind them.

"Historypin is based on the action of sharing history. We wanted to find the most compelling and interesting way for millions of people to come together around photos, history and their stories."

To take a trip down Memory Lane, simply visit the website at www.historypin.com and browse through the map or search for photographs in a particular area.

St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, 1952

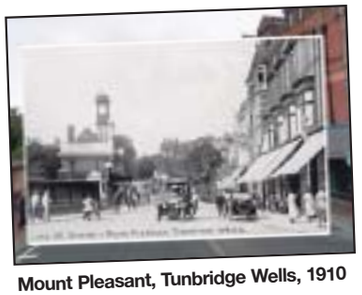
Images from Kent's past include the hustle and bustle of Maidstone's cattle market in 1958, memories of sail power on the River Medway in 1932 and the early days of the motor car in Tunbridge Wells.

Along with the fascinating images of days gone by, Historypin also aims to connect people with local history by providing background information for the photographs.

Anyone uploading an image can add a caption to tell the story of the picture and help to draw viewers into the tale.

"You've got all these old photos with fantastic stories, but they aren't interesting to lots of people," Mr Stanhope said. "There are lots of niche audiences that love photos of particular areas, but how do we open it up?

"The way old photos are laid on top of new Street View images is a way of opening local history to a much bigger audience. We know there are young people coming on to look at this and it gives a really compelling way to look at history."



Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, 1910

When Historypin launched at the start of June, the site boasted 4,000 photographs contributed by national archives and big organisations such as Selfridges, Marks and Spencer, the Royal Albert Hall and Arsenal FC.

At the time of writing, the number of images uploaded stood at nearly 14,000, showing that organisations and individuals are keen to take part in the project.

"The response has been beyond expectations and the images are coming from individuals with personal collections, local archives and from people all over the world," Mr Stanhope said. "People have really got on board. We've got huge long-term ambitions for it, but we didn't think it would be so big, so soon."

The company aims to make Historypin the world's largest user-generated archive of historic images and stories, which Mr Stanhope thinks will help people to bond over their history.

Whether seeing how little villages such as Ightham and Smarden have changed, or marvelling at the stark differences in some areas of Canterbury, the site is sure to spark debate about the evolution of Kent.

"Something amazing happened on almost every street corner, or some have stayed surprisingly the same," Mr Stanhope said.

"Whether there have been dramatic architectural changes or things have stayed the same, it all starts interesting conversations."

Registration is not required to simply browse the images, but anyone who would like to contribute their archive photographs to Historypin will need to create a Google account to register on the site.

They must scan the photographs into a computer to make digital versions and then upload their images, adding a date and caption before placing the picture in the correct location on the map.

There is a scanning feature on the site and Mr Stanhope hopes schools will get involved in the project, giving more people the chance to have access to a scanner.

"We don't take any copyright of images and people can take them down at any time," he said. "We can remove inappropriate or offensive content. If someone has put the wrong date or put an image in the wrong place, we can adjust it, but that's it."

As everyone is now being given the chance to put their own collection of photographs on the global map, Mr Stanhope urges people to put their community in the picture.

"Even if you have no old photos, someone you know will, whether it's a grandparent or a neighbour," he said.

"Everyone knows someone with old photos and stories to tell. Get out there and start digging stuff out and start mapping your area. That's our call to action."

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Ex-con Aitken: inmates deserve a second chance

By MARIJKE COX
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FORMER convict and Tory MP Jonathan Aitken has stressed the need for offender rehabilitation, as Michael Howard and Ken Clarke clash over prison policy.

Lord Howard – a former Tory party leader who held the Folkestone and Hythe seat for 27 years – and the current justice secretary are at loggerheads after Mr Clarke ditched the 'prison works' policy.

It was drawn up by Lord Howard in the early 1990s while he was Home Secretary.

Mr Clarke instead outlined plans where fewer offenders would be sent to jail and there would be more focus on rehabilitation.

Mr Aitken, who was a Thanet Tory MP from 1974-97, said although he agreed rehabilitation should be an absolute priority for Government, there also had to be better services for offenders suffering mental health problems.

Perjury

The 67-year-old, who in 1999 was jailed for seven months for perjury, said there were too many people in prisons who should not be there.

"Prison does work up to a certain point," he said. "There are dangerous people from whom the public needs to be protected and there are some people that have to be punished for the crimes they have committed.

"Both Michael Howard and Ken Clarke make valid points, but the area where I see a problem is sending large numbers of people to prison who should not be there at all, but instead rehabilitated.

"There are three things that need to be done through prison. The first is to protect the public; the second is to punish offenders; and the third is rehabilitation for prisoners.

EXPERIENCE: Jonathan Aitken

"We are weakest on the third point. This should absolutely become a priority, for the good of society and the good of offenders."

Mr Aitken, who was MP for Thanet East for nine years and the renamed Thanet South for 14 years, said about seven per cent of prisoners were suffering from mental illnesses such as schizophrenia or psychosis.

"Among those that should not be in prison are the mentally ill. They should not be dumped in jail," he said.

In total, some 17,500 prisoners nationwide have been diagnosed with mental health disorders and women's jails have high levels of self-harm by inmates.

Mr Aitken said: "There are also quite a few prisoners without mental illness that pose no threat to society, and there are a large number of female prisoners who are not going to be violent. All of them are sad people whose lives are in a mess and shouldn't be given prison sentences.

"They should be sent to Community Supervised Homes for Offenders (CSHO)."

CSHOs offer continuous but lower-cost rehabilitation for offenders.

"Most people agree we need rehabilitation, but Government doesn't seem to do much about it," he said. "The biggest issue is, how do we stop reoffending? Eight out of 10 young offenders reoffend within two years.

"They're not doing well in terms of what I call vigorous rehab, where they are met at the prison gates and helped to adjust to society."

Mr Aitken said he spent a great deal of his time in prison reading and writing letters for illiterate prisoners.

"I learnt a lot about the way people think," he said. "Most of them are not scared of imprisonment and are extremely ill-equipped for a law-abiding life. I met a lot of no-hopers that were determined to go on misusing drugs, but there were others who had good intentions of going straight.

"But it is very difficult for them. How are they going to find a job or a place to live when they leave prison?"

Mr Aitken said he hoped Mr Clarke's promised "rehabilitation revolution" would give people a second chance at life.

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Road victim named

A 98-YEAR-OLD woman who died in hospital after her mobility scooter was involved in a crash with a van has been named.

Edith Sherwood, pictured right, was riding across Scanlons Bridge Road, Hythe, at 10.20am on Friday, July 30, when the incident took place. She was airlifted to a hospital in London suffering critical injuries, but news of her death was released on Monday.

The road was closed for four hours while forensics officers were at the scene. The incident is still being investigated and police are appealing for witnesses.

RAF heroes' tribute

HEROES of the Battle of Britain will be commemorated at Westbere, near Canterbury, with the unveiling of a memorial to two RAF pilots who gave their lives in the struggle.

Pilot Officer JW Bland crashed in a Hurricane close to Island Road, and Flying Officer F Gruszka, formerly of the Polish Air Force, crashed in a Spitfire in marshes between Westbere and Stodmarsh.

Both were shot down in the early afternoon of August 18, 1940. The memorial will be unveiled on Westbere village green at 1.30pm, within minutes of the reported times of deaths of the two pilots on the same day 70 years earlier.

WORK has started on a custom-designed BMX and skate park in Cozenton Park, Rainham. It will cost £178,000 and is due to be open by November.

Medway Council's community services chief Cllr Howard Doe said: "I'm impressed by the dedication and work the young people who will use this park have put into the project. Their feedback helped shape what will be included."

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Union fights against care homes closure

Support for staff's fight to keep jobs

UNION leaders have launched a campaign to disrupt the planned closure of a number of council-run care homes for the elderly.

Cabinet members at County Hall agreed in June that centres across Kent should be shut down, demolished or sold to the private sector as part of an overhaul of the adult social care service.

But members of the Unison have come out in support of staff, elderly residents and their families by launching a campaign against the proposals, which are subject to a four-month consultation.

Priorities

David Buss – chairman of the group's adult services stewards committee – said: "KCC claims to be committed to protecting frontline services but is proposing these closures at the same time as it's bidding to run finance, IT and related services for Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

"Councillors should get their priorities right. They were elected to provide quality services for the people in Kent, not to play at KCC plc.

"Unison is committed to joining with everyone who wants to defend these vital services to some of Kent's most vulnerable people, who have given their lives to their communities and should now have the right to spend their remaining years in dignity in the home of their choice."

The consultation on the proposals started on June 21 and will run until November 1, with a final decision likely to be made by January next year.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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KCC says the changes will save £2 million a year but insists it is also about providing better care and more choice for elderly residents.

The four care homes earmarked for closure are Ladesfield in Whitstable, Sampson Court in Deal, The Limes in Dartford, and Lawrence House in Folkestone.

Bowles Lodge in Hawkhurst, Cornfields in Dover, and Manorbrooke in Dartford, are all set to be demolished and replaced with 'extra care' social housing that would allow residents to live independently but with carers available 24 hours a day.

The shake-up also affects Wayfarers in Sandwich, which will be sold as a going concern, and three Swale care homes – Kiln Court in Faversham, Doubleday Lodge in Sittingbourne, and Blackburn Lodge in Sheerness – that the council will effectively sell off to the private sector and negotiate an agreement where it can retain rights to places.

However, Unison branch secretary David Lloyd said the latter three homes could also face closure if partners cannot be found. He said the same applies for the Dorothy Lucy Centre in Maidstone, which is being retained for the time being.

Mr Lloyd said: "Quality care starts with quality staff and KCC sets the standards the rest of the sector should follow. That does not come cheap.

"But with it comes a well-motivated and loyal workforce, providing the continuity that is so vital to older people, in marked contrast to large parts of the private sector where high staff turnover and agency staffing are the norm."

Unison has now launched a petition to fight the closures.

KCC cabinet member for Kent adult social services Cllr Graham Gibbens, said it was important unions, individuals and families give their views in the consultation process.

He said KCC was committed to providing residential care to those who need it and are entitled to the means-tested service.

He said: "People will ask: why make this proposal now? The answer is that it would be wrong to wait for the buildings to need more immediate, expensive work to be done.

Options

"If we waited, residents might then need to be moved at short notice. By acting now, it is possible to give people more of a say in what happens next – and we can talk about options such as the £75m development in Kent that includes extra care.

"I recognise this situation will be difficult for residents, families and members of staff. That is why it is important for people to get involved in the consultation – to say what they think and what is important to them.

"At the same time, the views of those who will need services in the future, and their families, are important and will be considered alongside those using the services now.

"This way, I can be sure that when a decision is made on the proposals, it is a properly informed decision."

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WIN! A portable DVD player for your car

Courtesy of elephant.co.uk

IN 2000, England were thoroughly disappointing when they crashed out of a major football tournament; Chelsea won the FA Cup; Ronan Keating was at number one; Ridley Scott unleashed Gladiator at the cinema; the Ford Focus was the top selling car, and the cost of fuel hit an all-time high.

Ten years on, history has repeated itself in the football, Ronan has been number one with Boyzone, Ridley Scott turned his attention to a Robin Hood blockbuster, the Ford Focus is still a top five best-seller, and perhaps most depressingly the cost of fuel has hit a new all-time high.

In many ways things haven't changed much in 10 years, especially for the motorist, although the kit in our cars has changed beyond recognition: sat navs have replaced the road atlas, Ronan's on an iPod rather than CD, and the kids are watching films on portable DVD players rather than playing I-Spy.

One thing that definitely hasn't changed is how we buy car insurance – elephant.co.uk launched in 2000 and it's still providing seriously good car insurance.

And to mark its 10th birthday everyone who buys or renews their car insurance with elephant.co.uk in August will have the chance to win their premium back.*

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Don't miss Brenda's sisterly act

A MAJOR British film shot in Kent and starring home-grown star Brenda Blethyn is to hit the shelves nationwide.

Comedy drama The Calling, which was filmed in Thanet, will be available to buy on DVD from August 16.

As well as Ramsgate-born actress Blethyn, the film features rising star Emily Beecham, seen in movies including horror sci-fi 28 Weeks Later and gritty British gangster film Rise of the Footsoldier.

The Calling was also the last film for actor Corin Redgrave, part of the famous British theatre dynasty and a left-wing political activist, before he died on April 6, aged 70.

It also stars Susannah York, Rita Tushingham and Amanda Donohoe.

The movie was shot entirely on location in Kent with the majority at Salmestone Grange in Margate, which was recreated as a Benedictine convent, the setting for the story.

Newcomer Beecham plays Joanna, a privileged girl who gives up her life to pursue her calling to become a nun.

TRUE CALLING: Brenda Blethyn

The forward-thinking nuns she meets however are modern, free-thinking sisters who hand out condoms, attend pro-choice lobbies, lend their names to political opposition to the Vatican's lethargic response to un-priestly behaviour and get themselves into all sorts of trouble.

Writer and director Jan Dunn and producer Elaine Wickham of Ramsgate-based production company Maeve Films were behind the venture.

Dunn said: "I wanted to create the usual family disharmony and dysfunction within the walls of a convent – where you no more choose your family than you do in the real world, yet you still have to all get along, compromise and access some kind of love."

The pair are also behind other films Gypo, starring Paul McGann, and Ruby Blue, featuring Bob Hoskins.

More than £500,000 was generated for the county's economy through The Calling, which was nominated as Best British New Feature for the prestigious Michael Powell Award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2009.

Dunn and Wickham, whose film company is based at the Carlton Cinema in Westgate-on-Sea, near Margate, are now celebrating after the Government announced a new law which will allow authorities in Kent to shut down roads to allow big movies to be shot.

It means the county could potentially become a hotbed for movie productions.

Dunn said it was fantastic news for filmmakers.

"It makes Kent an ideal location to attract all budget filming to the region, which has an immediate knock-on effect to the local economy," she said.

"In the long term the bigger, more lavish productions also attract tourism to the region."

Producer Wickham added: "This is an attractive element for location consideration when producers are seeking film friendly locations."

The Calling is due for release from August 16 and can be pre-ordered now on Amazon.

• ***For more information about the film go to www.thecallingthefilm.com.***

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Valuable portrait stolen

A PAINTING by a renowned Scottish painter has been stolen during a house burglary.

The portrait of a Scottish crofter, by the Victorian artist Joseph Farquharson, was taken along with an oak grandfather clock from a property in Shoreham Lane, Halstead near Sevenoaks.

Police have appealed for information after the burglary which took place overnight between 3pm on July 22 and 10pm on July 23.

A door was forced to gain access to the home and the painting was taken along with the clock, which has a brass face engraved with the name John Payne.

Sex attacker in his 60s

A WOMAN aged 55 has been sexually assaulted by a man in his 60s.

The victim was reading a book on a bench at around 8pm on July 24 when a man sat down and struck up a conversation with her.

He then got up from the bench at Iron Wharf in Abbey Street, Faversham, and returned half an hour later when he suddenly grabbed her hand and placed it on his crotch.

The woman hit him over the head with a sandal and was able to get away from him.

The attacker is white, in his 60s, of medium build, 5ft 10ins, and wore fawn-coloured trousers and a green top.

Speedboat crew saved

A LIFEBOAT was called to a broken down speedboat after the three men on board attempted to tow the craft to shore themselves.

The boat got into difficulties half a mile outside of Herne Bay at midday on Sunday, August 1.

RNLI Whitstable lifeboat arrived and towed the vessel to safety in Herne Bay harbour where the occupants were met with blankets and safety advice.

Major doubts over scheme for £50m seaside pathway after Government puts its foot down

By **MARIJKE COX** and **CHRIS MURPHY**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

Spending cuts a threat to plans for coastal path

ACCESS: St Margaret's is on the Saxon Shore Way, but some areas of Kent like Thanet could miss out when spending is cut on the new coastal footpath plan

PLANS for a footpath stretching along the whole coastline of England are under threat as the Government continues to tackle its budget deficit.

The £50 million scheme would have enabled walkers to roam along some 2,500 miles of coast, with sections of footpath around Kent, Somerset, Norfolk, Cumbria, East Riding, and Weymouth, expected to be completed in the next few years.

Natural England believed the complete, unbroken footpath around the whole English coast – made possible through the Marine and Coastal Access Act – would be complete in a decade.

Bleak

But as the coalition Government makes its spending cuts, the future of the path looks bleak, with only Weymouth – where work has already started – expected to go ahead as planned. Development in Kent was due to start next year.

The county does still have the Saxon Shore Way, but even this does not cover the entire coast and misses out some areas, including Thanet.

The long-distance walking route is named after the line of historic fortifications that defended the Kent coast at the end of the Roman era.

It is a 160-mile trek from Gravesend to Hastings, offering some of the finest coastal walking in England.

It includes sights like Iron Age hill forts, churches, a cathedral, Martello towers, historic ports, and castles.

There are also two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, numerous Sites of Special Scientific Interest and several Nature Reserves, said Explore Kent, the organisation responsible for its introduction.

The route is also ideal for walking, cycling, horse riding and enjoying days out in the county.

But the route does miss out Margate, Sheppey, and the coast around Dymchurch and Romney Marsh.

Although the South East branch of Natural England denied the latest plans had been shelved altogether, spokesman John Rennie said the scale of the project would have to be reduced.

"As a result of a five per cent reduction to this year's budget, Natural England has needed to assess the scope and delivery of some of its in-year programmes," he said.

"Five local authorities, including Kent, are involved in the implementation of the first phases of the roll out of the All England Coastal Path.

"The five authorities have been informed that the scale and scope of the initial roll out in their areas will need to be reduced to accommodate the reductions in this year's budget.

Mr Rennie stressed the project had not been scrapped and the availability of funding would become clearer following the autumn's Comprehensive Spending Review.

He added: "Natural England is continuing with the roll out in the five pilot areas and will await clarification from the CSR process about the long-term budget that is likely to be available for funding rollout in these areas and elsewhere."

Initially, the plans had come under fire from private landowners who feared having to give up their land to make way for the footpath.

They called for an appeals process under the act which was passed.

The Country Land and Business Association said some landowners faced seeing their property values slumping by as much as 20 per cent if they were forced to have paths cutting across them.

Maintenance

The Coastal Access Scheme was published in March by Natural England, with work expected to begin on the Kent section next year.

Plans included the development of bridges and stiles as well as maintenance of routes.

A spokesman from Kent County Council said the authority had been previously approached by Natural England about the project.

"Kent was originally chosen as one of the lead areas because of the excellent reputation of the county council's countryside access service," he said.

"We will be meeting Natural England later this month to discuss what will happen next."

He added: "Kent already has one of the longest coastal paths in the country.

"It follows the coastline as it was at the time of the Saxons. It's quite popular and KCC has done a lot of work promoting it."

THE ORCHID

The newspaper of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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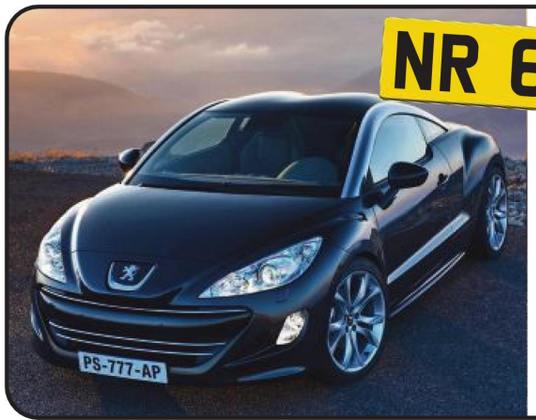

Catch up on this year's new releases

Starts on page 85

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AQUALUD: This is one of the largest water parks in Northern France and great fun for all the family. It's situated on Le Touquet Plage, just 45 mintues from Calais. There is a giant pool with waves, slides, Jacuzzis and a solarium. The outdoor section has 3 more pools, flumes and rides.

LA COUPOLE: A secret place hidden in the hills around St.Omer, just 40 minutes from Calais. Visitors can re-live life under Nazi occupation, learn about V2 rockets, view archive footage of WW2 and discover man's conquest of space, a totally memorable and fascinating experience.

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Soldier survived second IED blast while his older sibling watched from base

To Helmand and back with brothers in arms

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SOLDIER brothers from Kent have spoken of the moment one of them survived a roadside explosion – for the second time.

Private Liam Horgan, 19, was on his way to the Afghan base where his brother James was stationed. But on the approach, James watched in horror as the convoy struck an IED – improvised explosive device – planted by Taliban insurgents.

He knew his brother was in one of the vehicles and at first feared the worst. But a miracle unfolded before his eyes and Liam had survived – again.

The teenager had volunteered for a supply convoy in Helmand province, knowing it was going to his brother's patrol base. Then there was a "massive boom".

'I was smashed up off my seat and couldn't feel or see anything and I thought, well, that was it …

Liam, whose parents, James and Beverly Horgan, live at Sturry, near Canterbury, said: "I was smashed up off my seat and couldn't feel anything. I couldn't see anything because of the dust, and I thought… well, I thought that was it."

Astonishingly, this was the second time Liam had been in a vehicle that had struck an IED. The first time, the blast had killed the soldier where Liam was now sitting at the front of the vehicle.

From a British base in Cyprus, Liam said: "I really did think, 'That's it', because I was in the front and it's rare that someone gets blown up – especially twice as well – and walks away. I felt myself down and I couldn't feel anything, I was just so shook up.

"But after a couple of seconds I got to grips with myself and started to be able to see again as the dust settled, and I was okay.

"We were towed into my brother's patrol base and were able to laugh about it because nobody had been injured. I'm a lucky boy."

It was a nightmare for his brother James, 21, who was watching from inside the patrol base and the whole thing "seemed to happen in slow motion".

He said: "When I heard he'd been blown up the first time, I thought, 'Oh my God' and was a bit worried. But the second time I actually watched it as he was coming in to my patrol base."

An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) convoy of non-UK forces had been along the route earlier and struck an IED, but reported the route was now clear.

COVER ME: Brothers Liam (left) and James Horgan, from Canterbury, are both serving with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Pictures: MOD

FRATER IN TELUM: Liam (left) and James show off their identical Latin tattoos – translated as 'brothers in arms'

James said: "They were supposed to have cleared the route, but they missed one and it copped him. I knew straight away Liam was in the vehicle. I don't why, just something told me. And I thought, 'Here we go.'

"I thought about him all the time over there because I felt I had a big influence in him joining the Army, so if anything did happen I would blame myself. So when they came in and all the lads got out, it was a big relief."

James also experienced near misses during his tours of Afghanistan. He said: "In one incident we had to cross a field to get into a village. As we got to the middle of the field we had no cover, just a small ditch about a foot deep, when they opened up on us.

"We all had to roll into the ditch and lay there while our boys fired over us. We were caught in a two-way shooting range, so couldn't stand up. We were just laying there in a muddy puddle, waiting it out. You just want to get out of there.

"As soon as you go out of the gate on patrol the anticipation is there because you know the Taliban can see you and you know it's coming. You've just got to keep your skills and drills on the ball and you'll come out on top."

The pair are soon to be joined by their youngest brother, Danny, who is also joining their battalion and may serve with them in future tours. Liam said: "Having experienced Afghanistan, I am worried about Danny coming in. I think younger brothers are different, because with an older brother it's like nothing is going to happen to him because he's my older brother.

"But with younger brothers you always need to take them under your wing – or at least you think you do. If we have to go out on tour again and Danny is with me it's going to be difficult. I don't know how I'll react to it." James said: "I'm doubly worried now with Danny joining. With Liam, I know he's been there and done it, he knows what he's doing now, but for Danny it's all a big learning curve. Hopefully he'll do well."

'I knew straight away Liam was in the vehicle – something just told me – and I thought, Here we go'

The former Canterbury High School pupils are now returning to the UK to take on an entirely different role at the end of summer. In a move away from tradition, soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, have picked up the mantle of guarding the Queen while the Guards regiments are deployed elsewhere.

Commanding officer Lt Col Adam Crawley said: "You could say we've swapped the enemy fire of Afghanistan for the flashbulbs of London. The soldiers are having to get used to the change.

"Where everything they did was towards fighting a war, now it's completely different.

"It's public duties, it's smart and it's actually giving them the opportunity to show off. They can show off those Afghanistan medals on the parade ground in front of Buckingham Palace.

"It's a chance to put ourselves centre stage and prove we've just come back from Afghanistan – something you'd expect us to be able to do – and now we're going to do public duties – something you wouldn't expect this battalion traditionally to do, and prove we can do that as well.

"Everyone is taking a personal pride in proving they can do it just as well as the Guards. And that's what they'll do."

News and sport updated daily online
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LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817001, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Sorry, this is a jolly bad show

I had just completed a questionnaire into ways of saving Ashford Borough Council £1 million a year when I read your story, Taxpayers foot the bill for KCC team-building 'jollies', (KoS, last week).

How ironic that the main way of reducing my council's budget involves cutting many important services, such as the arts and sport, while at the same time KCC staff are enjoying days out at Brands Hatch and tree-jumping, which cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds. And the reasons? "To improve communications, forge positive links with each other and adopt a joined-up approach."

Poppycock. It they can't do that already they shouldn't be in well-paid jobs. It's outrageous of Amanda Beer, director of personnel and development at County Hall, to claim team-building days out helps to deliver the highest standard of service to residents. With the nation facing huge cuts and job losses, KCC bosses should know better. It's a pity there's not a questionnaire into ways of saving KCC money. I know what would be at the top of my list.

Robin Britcher, Kennington

Arise and keep heritage alive

Last Saturday, Folkestone's Leas lift reopened to the public after restoration. I have the pleasure of holding ticket number 001 on the first carriage. There were a few others on the first carraiges up and down and despite overcast conditions there were soon regular passengers in both directions, including with wheelchairs.

Two people came from Bognor Regis especially for the reopening, one of whom recalled travelling on the Leas lift 40 years ago. Others brought their children and staff, and I, as a volunteer, were pleased to talk to all travellers about the lift and its restoration. More volunteers will always be welcome to join in for whatever time they can give. The main thing, of course, is for all locals and visitors to utilise the lift regularly in order to ensure its continued running well into the future as a valued part of our heritage.

The Leas cliff lift is open Tuesdays to Sundays, from 10am-5.30pm, and costs 90p for adults, 50p for children and pensioners. Visit the website www.folkestoneleaslifts.co.uk for more information.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

She's fearful of democracy

Who is Ann Barnes? No, really. Who is she? I mean, she has professional publicity shots. She raises my council tax year-on-year. She decides who gets to be chief constable. She takes air time and column inches to promote her view of policing. Yet despite acting like a professional politician, Ms Barnes seems to think she should not have to run for office.

Ms Barnes bleats about her "almost 10 years" on Kent Police Authority. If she's so proud of her record, why not put it to the voters? Is it because she knows her claim to have "reduced crime by more than 30 per cent" would be revealed as a sham?

For example, according to the Office for National Statistics, violent crime in Maidstone has consistently risen between 2001-09:

- 'Violence against the person' has risen from 983 offences to 2,137.
- 'Common assault' has doubled from 278 offences to 580.
- 'Wounding endangering life' has doubled from 27 to 55.
- 'Other wounding' has trebled from 312 to 946.

Meanwhile, offences such as criminal damage and robbery remain at much the same levels here despite reducing nationally. Ms Barnes exclaims: "There wasn't one mention of directly elected commissioners" during the election debates.

She knows full well this was a manifesto commitment by the Conservatives, who took every seat in this county. Moreover, it was included in the Platform for Government agreed by the coalition parties. The ones who won the election – something Ms Barnes would fail at, if only she would try.

Jonathan Purle, Maidstone

OPINION: WE MUST STICK TOGETHER

GURVINDER SANDHER believes Kent's promotion of community cohesion can be a model for the nation – but budget cutbacks are a threat to progress

KENT Equality Cohesion Council came into being in April – previously we were called the North West Kent Racial Equality Council.

The change in name reflects how our work has evolved over the years. When I started in 1999, my work was mainly with BME (black minority ethnic) communities, we tended to work in isolation, and there wasn't much work taking place with young people and women.

Over time, with the support of the now retired director Dev Sharma MBE, we started to push back the boundaries and evolve our work.

To me, community cohesion is about all sections of the community coming together for the common good, sharing their history, knowledge and values.

In Kent, we have worked hard with limited resources to ensure all sections of the community are engaged and have an opportunity to participate. We organise one of the biggest – if not the biggest – St George's Day celebrations, which actually takes place on April 23, where young people from all sections of the community come together to celebrate the patron saint of England.

When I first mooted the idea, I was told not to bother, that it would upset people and attract extreme groups.

Four years down the line, people can see the benefit of bringing communities together and I am keen to replicate this work in other parts of the county.

We take the same approach with the Vaisakhi Festival in Gravesham. Vaisakhi is a Sikh religious festival which celebrates the birth of the Sikh faith as it is practised today.

Over time, with the hard work put in by the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara (Sikh temple) and local community groups, we have evolved this event so it is not just a celebration for Sikhs but the whole community – with local schools and non-Sikh community groups getting involved.

Not that our work is limited to Gravesham. We organise three major festivals – known as melas – in Dartford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. The term 'mela' comes from the Indian sub-continent and means a fair or festival. If you go to most parts of the UK, melas tend to promote and celebrate the arts and culture of the sub-continent.

The way we have evolved melas in Kent is by making them a celebration of communities and diversity in the particular area where they are taking place.

In addition to our work through the arts to promote cohesion, we also organise – in partnership with community groups – events to promote understanding and to discuss issues.

Examples include the series of Understanding Islam events organised with the Gravesend and Dartford Muslim Association; and the conferences organised in partnership with Rethink around mental health, forced marriages and domestic abuse; and the work with Kent Police around lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues, hate crime, stop and search and preventing violent extremism.

All of this I believe contributes to the positive community relations that are enjoyed in Kent, on the whole.

There is a real danger, though, in the current economic climate, as spending cuts take hold, that the work we and other charities around the county do will be under threat. This year already we have had to make staffing cuts and cut budgets back so drastically that there is nothing left to cut.

We are relying more on volunteers than ever before and seem to be working so hard just to survive. The long-term consequence of this is that organisations such as ours will fold and the work will just stop.

Building up community cohesion and good relations doesn't just happen by accident, it involves building effective partnerships between the community and statutory sector and most importantly time, commitment and community buy in.

I hope that over the coming months and years Kent can continue to be a role model for the rest of the country.

• Gurvinder Sandher is director of the Kent Equality Cohesion Council.

KOS media COMMENT

A Gateway victory for people power

CAMPAIGNERS against the controversial Kent International Gateway have shown that fighting at grassroots level does work, after plans for a road-rail freight interchange in the heart of Kent were overturned.

Their tireless efforts and consistent campaigning against a company determined to get its way finally paid off, showing that passion and commitment can prevail.

Politicians have been promising for a long time to give power back to the people. But instead of waiting, these people grabbed it back themselves.

And Government blowing the plans out of the water after councillors and others continued their diligent campaigning shows democracy shining through.

It proves that if there is something worth fighting for – and a well-organised, passionate campaign – the man and woman in the street can make their voices heard.

It also shows that big companies, no matter how viable a plan might be, can't simply batter their way through when the community is up for a fight.

The KIG plans were a good idea in terms of what they were trying to achieve, but the location was wrong. This whole chapter shows it often takes ordinary people to know what's best for where they live and not to leave it to the big boys in Parliament.

Seriously funny, but still pie in the sky

BORIS Johnson is still dreaming of his island airport in the Thames Estuary.

And despite opposition from what seems to be every corner, including his own party, the London Mayor is determined to "seriously" look at proposals.

But while Mr Johnson gets serious, his fellow Tories seem to be turning to comedy, with Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson even quoting from Monty Python. When even your own party is laughing at you, perhaps it really is time to give up the fight.

Vengeful deity is so human

Phil Granger believes our "godless society" is in great need of Biblical guidance (Letters, July 25). The Bible is, in my opinion, a literary tool designed to cultivated an orderly world by scaring people into submission.

Would a just creator really cast all those who do not proclaim Jesus as Lord into hell? It sounds too absurd. It would also mean this can't be a very nice omnipotent deity.

No human chooses to be born, so why should anyone be eternally punished for not accepting that Christ is the way, the truth and the life? In the gospels, Jesus teaches the importance of compassion and clemency, yet God's nature is portrayed as intemperate, wrathful and unforgiving. God commands: 'Believe in me or burn for ever.'

Not exactly merciful. Also, according to the Bible, it doesn't matter how moral or charitable a life you lead, if you aren't a Christian you won't inherit God's kingdom.

Frightening people doesn't make their faith genuine or hearts pure. From my agnostic perspective, I hope a spiritual dimension awaits us after we die where we can be at peace with loved ones.

I suspect Anglican leaders are busy reinterpreting the Bible to suit their own needs and those of their dwindling congregations because they realise that many passages proclaiming to be the word of the Lord come across as so brutally judgmental and inflexible they must be the work of mortals intent on controlling others.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury

HMS Cavalier's floating voters

HMS Cavalier in Chatham is in the final of the National Lottery Awards 2010 and now needs your support to help it win.

HMS Cavalier is competing against two other finalists in the best education project category of the annual search to find the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects.

The awards recognise the difference such projects make to communities. All the projects in the final have already received funding and the awards celebrate how they have put that money to good use. Vote at lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards. Voting ends at noon on August 13.

In September, the finalists will attend a star-studded event where the winners will be announced.

This will take place at London's Roundhouse, and will also be broadcast on BBC TV.

Lisa Quinn, National Lottery Awards

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BAYNTUN
Kirstie Philpot and Chris Bayntun celebrate the birth of their daughter Isabella Hope Bayntun on 15th July 2010.

BUCKLER
Lisa and Richard of Deal are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Ellie Violet Buckler, born at 4.33pm on 27th July 2010 at QEQM Hospital, weighing 6lb 9oz. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

BURGE
Steven and Charlotte celebrate the birth of their daughter Chloe Alice Burge on 25th July 2010, weighing 7lb 2oz.

DIWAKAR
Lisa and Previn Diwakar celebrate the birth of their son Oscar Joseph Campbell Diwakar on the 7th July 2010.

DUNMALL
Neil and Louise would like to announce the birth of their son Jack, born 7th July 2010 at Pembury Hospital.

EDWARDS
Catherine and Darren celebrate the birth of their son Ciarán William Edwards on the 22nd July 2010.

HANNING
Rachel and Nathan celebrate the birth of their daughter Amelie May Hanning on 27th July 2010.

HARGREAVES
Hannah and Dean celebrate the birth of their son Hayden Derek Hargreaves on the 18th July 2010.

ISLAM
Ferdausara and Nazrul celebrate the birth of their daughter Humaira Misha Islam on 21st July 2010. She is the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

JENKINSON
Kimberly and Mark celebrate the birth of their son Cooper Thomas Jenkinson on 25th July 2010.

LARGE
Sally-Ann and Alistair of Deal are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful twins, born on 22nd July 2010 at The QEQM Hospital. Ethan James Kerrin Large, born at 14.36 hours, weighing 5lb 6oz and Amelia Jane Helen Large, born at 14.37 hours, weighing 4lb 12oz. Our most beautiful and precious son and daughter.

MANTEL
Andrew Bruce Ellis Mantel born on 17th July 2010, weighing 6lbs 3oz. Son to Darren and Helen in Deal.You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

NORTH
Katie and Simon of Deal are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Lily Mae North, born at 11.06am on 13th July 2010 at QEQM Hospital weighing 9lb 10oz. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

POINTER
Charlie-James George Pointer, born 20th July 2010. Weighing 7lbs on the button.

RYAN / MILLEN
Sarah Ryan and Martin Millen celebrate the birth of their son Max Ryan Millen on 21st July 2010 weighing 5lbs 8oz.

SHAYLER
Lily Christine born on 25th July 2010, weighing 8lbs. Daughter to Kevin and Victoria in Margate.

SMITH
Elliott James born on 26th July 2010, weighing 7lb 1oz. Son to Andrew and Clare Smith in Maidstone.

WISHART
Stuart and Maggie Wishart celebrate the birth of their son Jaime John Wishart, brother to Lewis on 16th July 2010 weighing 6lb 8oz.

YOUNG
Indya Kirstie Young, born 9th July 2010, weighing 7lbs 5.5ozs. Daughter to Kirstie and Ben. Sister to Joshua.

DEATHS

ALFIE GOUGH
Sadly Alfie has had to leave us now. Despite the amazing fight, his little body could no longer continue battling with this awful disease. Alfie was where he wanted to be - at home, cuddled up in bed with Mummy and Daddy. He was not in any pain and he slowly drifted away from this world to a far better place. Alfie's funeral service will take place on Tuesday 10th August 2010 at 11am at the St Ethelbert's Church, Hereson Road, Ramsgate and then to Ramsgate Cemetery. Everyone touched by our amazing little boy is very welcome to join in Thanksgiving for the life of Alfie Gough. All donations to www.appeal4alfie.com. Alfie's spirit will live on and give hope to other children suffering from Neuroblastoma.

HOLT
Frederick George Holt passed away peacefully on 23rd July. Much loved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will be deeply missed. Funeral at Medway Crematorium 2.20pm 11th August 2020.

LARAMAN
Jean. Died suddenly on Sunday 1st August 2010. Loving Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Much missed and loved by all.

MAIDMENT
George Maidment of Folkestone died 30th July 2010. Much missed by wife, Jacqueline and sons, Norman and Yann. Enquiries to Chittendens Funeral Directors

PEMBERTON
Pemberton Gavin J, of Faversham, died peacefully in his sleep at Kingsfield Care Center on 23rd July. He was born in Nebraska, USA, on 5th August, 1921. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mabel, of 53 years. He is survived by daughters, Mayling and Pody (Laurel), grandaughters, Kim (Lynn) and Tami (Dwayne), and great grandchildren, Steven and Ryan. His remains were cremated and will be placed at Punchbowl National Cemetary, located in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

READ
Alan Denton, passed away on 29th July 2010. The funeral will take place on Wednesday 11th August at 11:45am at Vinters Park Crematorium, Maidstone. Family flowers only. Alternative donations in lieu of flowers to MacMillan Cancer Relief, donations may be given on the day.

REFFOLD
Joyce Reffold died peacefully on 21st July 2010 after a short illness. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium on Wednesday 11th August at 11am. Sadly missed and always in our thoughts.

TAPPENDEN
Alan Tappenden of Westgate died peacefully on July 30th 2010. Funeral Service at Thanet Crematorium at 13.20 on 9th August. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

TIDEY
Colin William Tidey of Ramsgate passed away on 28th July 2010. Enquiries to Twyman and Holmes Funerals 01843 852758. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

WILKINS
Geoffrey Richard Wilkins of Margate died peacefully on 28th July 2010. A loved one is not gone until they are forgotten. And to live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

KPA track record speaks for itself

In response to last week's letter from Ken Little, headlined 'They should work for free'.

Any allowances paid to Kent Police Authority (KPA) members are set by an independent remuneration body and full details of the scheme and any expenses claimed by KPA members are published on our website. We were one of the very first bodies to take this step and I think that level of openness and transparency is essential for public servants.

As KPA members we are all too aware of the financial challenges and hardship facing organisations, firms and families. For that reason the overwhelming majority of members including the vice-chairman, all four committee chairs and myself undertook not to receive any increase in allowances for this year. Our senior officers, chief executive and treasurer have made the same commitment.

I stand by my original assessment that the Government's proposals for police and crime commissioners will not save money. The Home Office proposals are clear – the commissioner will be expected to assemble a team to support him or her. Moreover, there is provision for a police and crime panel comprising 'locally elected councillors from constituent wards and independent lay members' that will, presumably, require allowances and staff support. The cost of running the KPA is £1.5 million per annum – approximately 0.5 per cent of the total police budget. This compares extremely favourably with other police authorities. Our budget will be subject to the same reductions facing the police force and that includes the 2010-11 in-year cuts recently announced by the Government.

The KPA's achievements in recent years are well documented. Working with the chief constable, we have rolled out neighbourhood policing across Kent and Medway and reduced crime by almost a third. We have also embarked on an innovative collaboration with Essex that has saved millions. We have achieved this with one of the lowest police council tax levels in any shire area.

External government inspections have also shown our effectiveness. Our 2009 inspection showed that the "authority clearly mandated to scrutinise and challenge the force".

In conclusion, I really welcome this debate and interest in police accountability. The KPA isn't perfect. We haven't always got things absolutely right.

But we have a proven track record – and a strong and positive story to tell – and I'm determined to do just that.

Ann Barnes, chair, Kent Police Authority

You are our festival heroes one and all

On behalf of the organisers of the Hospital Radio Maidstone Soundstage at the 31st Maidstone River Festival, I would like to thank the following for their invaluable contributions to a very successful event:

Sponsors Water For Work, Coca-Cola Schweppes, Globe Scaffolding, Speedy Hire, Golding Homes and Kier for donations and assistance.

Our backstage team of Hospital Radio Maidstone volunteers, most of whom worked tirelessly from early Saturday morning into the small hours of Sunday.

The team from Powerbase who supplied and ran our PA faultlessly, enabling all the bands to use their own equipment. New festival chairman Martin Cox should also be commended for doing such a sterling job in his first year. A big thank you goes to bands Timeless Beauties, The Web Foundation, Green Diesel, OGWA, Venture South, Skinners Rats, The Blues Mothers, The Rock and Roll Bandits, The Very Wonderful Long Teddies, Seer (from Liverpool), Billy Wears Dresses, Vicki Clarke and our headliners Blues Brothers Little Brother. All the bands played free, many of them travelling from afar, each giving stunning performances.

But the biggest thanks of all must go to the festival-goers, many of whom stayed to cheer us on throughout the afternoon and evening, dancing into the night to music performed by gifted and generous musicians.

Thank you, Maidstone.

Martin Haskell, stage manager, HRM Soundstage

Stumped by this civic vandalism

I would like to know why perfectly healthy trees are being cut down for no reason. Contractors cutting trees in Downs Road, Folkestone, for Shepway Borough Council couldn't give me a reason when asked. Trees add beauty and are a necessity. The photo here show how even small young healthy trees are being cut down and I want to know why. If I don't get an answer from Shepway council I will take it to our MP – higher if necessary.

One person who had a tree cut down outside his house never got an answer from those doing it either. At this rate, Folkestone will soon be barren. This is not only area where this is happening.

John R O'Neon, Folkestone

Marathon chance for young patients

Teenage Cancer Trust is appealing to readers to dust off their trainers and join our running team for next year's Brighton Marathon.

For the first time, Teenage Cancer Trust has been selected as the official UK charity for the 2011 Brighton Marathon. Although general admission has closed, the trust has spaces available and is looking for people interested in running for us. If you have booked a place and haven't decided which charity to run for, we would love to hear from you, too. All money raised will go towards the trust's South East Appeal as we are building and equipping a specialist unit at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey. Due to open in June 2011, this 13-bed unit will cost more than £3 million. For the first time, young cancer patients from Kent will be treated with others their own age in an environment suited to their needs. As the trust receives no government funding, next year's marathon is very important to us. Every day six young people between the ages of 13 and 24 are diagnosed with cancer. Usually placed on a children's ward or with elderly patients, young people often feel isolated when facing a cancer diagnosis.

To help overcome this, Teenage Cancer Trust builds specialist units in NHS hospitals. The units are designed to be as close as possible to a young person's normal life outside hospital. They are vibrant and colourful and often include pool tables and computers. As well as keeping patients occupied during long stays, the units provide an environment where young people can meet others in a similar situation. If you are interested in running or volunteering, please email treks@teenagecancertrust.org or telephone 020 7612 0370.

Simon Davies, chief executive, Teenage Cancer Trust

Disability awards are the business

I have teamed up with leading charity Leonard Cheshire Disability to launch our annual search for the winner of The Stelios Award for Disabled Entrepreneurs in the UK 2010. My foundation and I have been pleased to work with the charity in identifying world-class disabled entrepreneurs who have successfully overcome the hurdles involved in growing a business.

I am passionate about encouraging an enterprising spirit and am calling on disabled entrepreneurs who run a business to submit an application. Applicants need to demonstrate exceptional entrepreneurial ability and state how the prize money of £50,000 would make a major difference to their business.

The recipient will receive the award and a personal cheque for £50,000 at the Growing Business Awards, at the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London, on November 25.

Find out more at disabledentrepreneur.org. The deadline for applications is September 3.

Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, Leonard Cheshire Disability

Innovative move to ethical research

Despite a small one per cent decrease in the overall numbers of animals used in experiments, Home Office statistics released last month raise concerns over a rise in the use of genetically modified (GM) animals.

It is widely accepted that using GM animals to study human diseases does not offer the most reliable or relevant research solutions, as illustrated by the disappointing results obtained over the last two decades in studies on cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and cancer research. Unfortunately, due to the fact this technology uses more animals than classical approaches, instead of resulting in a decrease, the use of GM animals has increased by 33 per cent in 2009 compared with 2000.

However, alternatives do exist. Projects such as those funded by the Dr Hadwen Trust are implementing existing methods and developing new ways of studying diseases. New techniques such as using 3D cell and tissue cultures, computer imaging, molecular analytical methods and volunteer studies allow scientists to move away from traditional methods and use more accurate and scientifically reliable techniques which are also more ethical.

This year the trust is funding five advanced research projects in UK universities into diverse areas of human disease including epilepsy, bone disease, childhood leukaemia and abdominal pain. We hope these projects will inspire others to follow this innovative lead.

Kailah Eglington, chief executive, Dr Hadwen Trust

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WOMEN seeking men

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT883 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

LINDA larger lady 61, likes TV, gardening, seeks male for time out and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338857**

52YR old single mum, 5ft 5ins, blonde, brown eyes, kind, caring, smoker, overweight, seeks kind, caring, understanding male who likes history, theatre, cinema, meals out and coach trips. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380578**

JENNY 44, attractive, slim and vivacious, would love to be seduced by an attractive, genuine, loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339703**

CHERYL 40's, beautiful green eyed gal, very loving, seeks tall romantic male who thinks he can satisfy all her dreams. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339701**

LORRAINE 35, lonely voluptuous brunette with s big personality, lots of love to give, seeks lovely older man who can make her feel special again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339697**

SAM beautiful slim brunette, big blue eyes, seeks attractive, intelligent, sporty male who knows how to have fun to sweep her off her feet. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339695**

LIZ 62, 5ft 8ins, retired, seeks tall male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380754**

LARGER lady, 61, WLTM solvent gent with own home for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339471**

PETITE lady, early 70's, 5ft 3ins, nice figure, well dressed, likes days out, music, meals out, nights in, keep fit, seeks N/S gent 69-74. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339483**

39YR old single mum, blonde hair, green eyes, 5ft 2ins, curvy, likes socialising, pubs, animals, clubs, seeks loyal male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380702**

NICK 43, petite blonde, green eyes, seeks genuine guy for company, fun, friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339115**

FEMALE single mum, seeks male, 30-45 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339345**

JANET 42, petite brunette, very loving, seeks tall well built passionate older male who can keep up with her vivacious nature but be loved in return. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339733**

ELENA 33, generous warm hearted blonde girl, bubbly and outgoing would love to spread her wings with tall good looking older dark haired gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339731**

SYLVIA 43, beautiful, petite blue eyed blonde, fit and active seeks attractive male to share relaxing nights in with good wine, great company, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339727**

ANNA 32, loves male company and looking for fun times, seeks tall good looking guy to sweep her off her feet and just enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339725**

JENNY 45, slim blonde with big blue eyes seeks special someone to brighten up her days and liven up her nights. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339003**

COME and join me for a bottle of wine in a hot soapy bath!! Need to be spontaneous too? Outgoing, confident and good looking! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339001**

LARGER lady seeks gent, 60's for nights out, friendship and who knows. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338517**

JAN 54, little auburn haired bundle of fun, wicked sense of humour, looking for uncomplicated fun with a tall dark haired male. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338933**

VAL outgoing, compassionate brunette, enjoys life to the full, seeks someone nice to share good times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338931**

LUCY 30, chatty, bubbly brunette, shy until you get to know me, looking for a hunky male to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338929**

ROMANTIC male needed by Vera, 42, beautiful, sexy brunette looking for fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338925**

49YR old divorced female, 5ft 2ins, blonde hair, 3 children, seeks male, 48-52 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338795**

JULIE 44, medium build, single mum, honest, reliable, seeks slim-medium build male, 40-48, N/S. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338563**

BRIGHT bubbly, curvy blonde, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male to share the fun loving side of life with. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338461**

DEBBIE 35, fun friendly brunette, lovely figure looking for similar attractive male for adult fun friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338431**

MICHELLE 40, cuddly, bubbly brunette, up for anything, seeking average/well built male who knows how to enjoy life. Maybe with me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338429**

FEMALE 44, kind, generous, GSOH, genuine, caring, loving, likes animals, cinema, reading, walks, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338379**

LINDA 45, seeks caring, understanding, hardworking gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338677**

TILLY 52, larger lady, likes swimming, meals out, history, seeks friendly, fun, kind gent with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380546**

JUNE slim blue eyed blonde likes a bit of fun seeks tall romantic male to share an intimate glass of wine at the end of a day. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339095**

PAULINE pretty professional blonde, great curves, life and soul of any party, seeks tall, well built male with passion for life to get together with. Looks/unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339087**

WIDOWER 50's, likes country walks, animals, reading, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337979**

LARGER lady, 61, WLTM caring, affectionate male for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338183**

TALL slim, attractive lady, late 60's, genuine, likes socialising, meals out, music, animals, seeks male, 65-70 for company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380476**

SENSITIVE caring female, likes meals out, countryside, coast, driving, gardening, seeks male, 58-64 for caring relationship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380450**

CAROLE 52, long chestnut hair, attractive, 5ft 4ins, medium build, likes travel, animals, countryside, seeks Scottish male, under 57 with hair. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380448**

FUN young looking, attractive female, 49, GSOH, kind, caring, seeks male, 45-55 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338267**

LOVELY sensual, shapely female, confidant and adventurous, seeks experienced male for fun adventures. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336717**

FEMALE early 50's, seeks likeminded male, 50-55 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380262**

BRIGHT bubbly, curvy blonde, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male to share the fun loving side of life with. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338461**

PASSIONATE nature loving lady, petite with long blonde hair looking for nice guy to spend quality time with and see how it goes. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338433**

ANNE 46, slim, N/S, honest, kind, reliable, seeks slim-medium build male, 42-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337247**

SINGLE fun loving female, 47, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, walks, seeks male, 39-49 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336879**

43YR old female, petite, 5ft 1ins, single mum, OHAC, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337351**

PAM 33, pretty, kind, loving brunette seeks funny, laidback male for relaxing fun times with no ties. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337273**

MANDY 40, petite, curvy brunette, big green eyes, seeks someone nice to share lots of cuddles, TLC and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337271**

SARAH attractive, slim, 5ft 5ins, brunette, likes pubs, walks, travel, seeks male, 30-38 who is caring, exciting, confident and attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337581**

WANTED! Good looking, well built, honest male to make gorgeous curvy brunette, 28, happy again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338455**

SUE 39, petite fun loving brunette, seeks tall, outgoing male who is full of surprises to keep her entertained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338453**

DIANE 42, petite size 12, loyal, kind, no ties, knows exactly what she wants, seeks attractive, male for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338435**

PAT 64, petite, brown hair, blue eyes, young at heart, N/S, bubbly, likes music, travel, cooking, seeks likeminded gent of similar age for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337435**

WOULDN'T it be nice? Cheerful female, late 60's, dog owner, likes gardening, walks, conversation, laughter, seeks similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337601**

MICHELLE 43, long curly brown hair, sparkly green eyes, lovely figure, easy-going and affectionate, WLTM nice man for loving relationship. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337853**

KATHY 40ish, passionate, outgoing, adventurous red haired lady looking for adventure seeks tall good looking guy for a relaxed no strings relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337851**

MICHELLE 40, petite curvy brunette, cheeky and full of fun, seeks funny easygoing male to keep her company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337849**

MICHELLE 41, stunning, seductive, dark haired nurse seeking sensitive male who likes a gal in a uniform for lots of off duty fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336715**

RUTH young 64, attractive, kind, considerate, N/S, likes outdoors, socialising, many interests, seeks male for happy leisure time, friendship, LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380086**

ATTRACTIVE young 42yr old female, size 12, voluptuous, seeks tall, athletic male, 35-55 for fun, excitement and happiness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337817**

FRAN young 52, happy go lucky, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338457**

MARIE 60, dark hair/eyes, kind, honest, GSOH, varied interests, N/S, seeks gent, 55-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336807**

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336721**

CAROLE petite, slim, long blonde hair, green eyes, attractive, likes sports, nights out, pubs, meals out, cinema, theatre, music, seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337515**

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, early 60's, GSOH, likes most things, fed up of kissing frogs, seeks genuine, caring male of similar age to share the good things. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336515**

GEORGIE 45, curvy, tactile blonde, bubbly and chatty looking for broad-minded, fun loving, mature male. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335563**

ALI 25, petite with long brown hair and blue eyes, happy personality, knows what she wants, looking for dishy older guy to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335561**

41YR old female, medium build, likes gym, walks, cinema, meals out, seeks kind hearted gent for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336161**

YVETTE 46, attractive, blonde, blue eyes, likes keep fit, seeks younger male with GSOH for serious fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337925**

SHIRLEY 74, 5ft 6ins, attractive, N/S, varied interests, seeks similar aged N/S male to share interests and time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337889**

BEAUTIFUL exotic, very petite female, 44, loves to cook romantic meals in, seeks loving male to share relaxing nights with good wine, great company and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337855**

MARIA 23, chatty blonde, fun to be around, likes to try new things seeks spontaneous male for no strings fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337825**

LISA 41, 5ft, black hair, brown eyes, curvy, divorced mum, attractive, GSOH, seeks genuine, grubby builder with rough hands and big heart to cherish. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337609**

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336719**

RETIRED female, new to area, likes art, music, concerts, theatre, seeks similar professional/retired male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379922**

JAN 5ft 2ins, blonde hair, brown eyes, slim, 50's, nurse, likes pubs, nights in, wine, cooking, animals, seeks likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335065**

MANDY 18, very pretty inexperienced young female, seeks seductive older male to tutor and spoil her. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335569**

THERE'S more to life than work! Sandra, 46, bubbly professional looking to let her hair down with broadminded male. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337815**

LARGER lady 61, likes tv, cinema, boot sales, fairs, reading, WLTM male for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336833**

FEMALE likes holidays, ballet, reading, animals, seeks N/S male, under 70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335437**

MEN seeking women

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT883 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

AMERICAN male, GSOH, caring, loving, loyal, looking for serious relationship, possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339579**

NIGE 36, tall, slim, blond hair, blue eyes, seeks fun, adventurous female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339333**

MIKE easygoing, fun, seeks special female, 30-45 with no hang-ups for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339297**

ATTRACTIVE male, 44, 5ft 10ins, average build, easygoing, likes nights in/out, seeks female for good times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339145**

STEVE 47, loyal, tactile, caring, honest, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339123**

ABBI tall, medium build, kind, gentle, considerate, black gent, 40, seeks large white female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339495**

BLACK male, 47, bubbly, seeks curvy, buxom, pear shaped, voluptuous white female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339453**

21YR old male, tall, dark handsome, seeks female, 18-45 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339421**

ATTRACTIVE professional blond male, toned, sporty, seeks Oriental/Asian attractive female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339355**

MALE 52, attractive, fun, energetic, 6ft, slim, many interests including cinema, walks, seeks fun lady, 40-60 for relationship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339197**

40YR old male, likes walks, music, GSOH, seeks female, 30-40 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380544**

44YR old male, tall, slim, attractive, N/S, GSOH, outdoor type, seeks petite, N/S lady, 43-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380696**

BILL 46, divorced, professional, seeks young female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380658**

BRIAN 60, 5ft 8ins, 14st, clean shaven, seeks busty female, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380648**

TONY 49, average build, Saints fan, seeks female, 30-52 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339419**

TREVOR 57, easygoing, like's nights out, clubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339569**

57YR old male, likes sport, bingo, seeks interesting female for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339259**

JOHN self employed gardener, medium build, N/S, seeks female, 35-50 for romance, love and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339511**

5FT 8ins male, medium build, mid 40's, with kids, seeks career woman, 35-45 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337553**

TALL man, mid 50's, refuses to take himself too seriously, GSOH, likes light hearted discussion, seeks friendship with woman 42 or younger. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337169**

SEAN 39, 5ft 10ins, brown eyes, GSOH, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338535**

CRAIG 24, Christian, likes theatre, meals out, shopping, socialising, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380574**

51YR old chap, 6ft, not bald, looks bit like Richard Branson without the money, seeks gorgeous lovely. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336529**

NORMAN 59, easygoing, fit, 6ft, likes golf, boating, walks, cinema, seeks slim-medium build female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338053**

PROFESSIONAL honest male, 38, slim, 5ft 11ins, seeks female for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338381**

MALE easygoing, 47, 5ft 6ins, N/S, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, likes walks, music, travel, seeks similar female, 35-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380342**

GARY 42, 6ft 1ins, slim, good looking, athletic, own business, likes sports, walks, meals out, seeks slim, athletic lady, 25-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338313**

40YR old male, 5ft 9ins, slim, short hair, hazel eyes, seeks slim-medium female, 30-43 for friendship, maybe more. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338087**

BRIAN young looking, easygoing, 49, divorced dad, likes music, meals out, travel, seeks easygoing female, 40-58 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337973**

INVITATION to dine, trip to coast, cosy night in, you choose. 6ft, brown hair, 50's male, looking for someone special to spend quality time with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337931**

NICK 50's, 5ft 10ins, slim, fair hair, blue eyes, widow, loving, considerate, likes travel, meals out, socialising, culture, classic cars, boating, cycling, walks, seeks female up to 58. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338657**

MALE 42, likes sports, walks, travel, swimming, seeks female, 25-45 with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380622**

MICHAEL 61, likes nights in/out, wine, seeks medium-large build female, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380594**

HASTINGS male, 45, nice looking, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, GSOH, romantic, seeks caring lady, 25-45, slim-medium build for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380540**

RAY 70, caring, happy, likes walks, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338137**

KEVIN late 30's, 5ft 6ins, likes country walks, rock music, meals out, football, seeks honest female, 25-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380508**

LAIDBACK young 60yr old male, 5ft 10ins, slim, brown hair, green eyes, solvent, fit, likes sports, gardening, walks, seeks likeminded female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380500**

STEWART 42, builder, part time fisherman, likes dog walking, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338341**

ATTRACTIVE male, 39, slim, easygoing, genuine, seeks female for down to earth relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338789**

DAVID 5ft 11ins, fair hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, smart/casual, likes travel, theatre, arts, cinema, music, seeks female for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380528**

PAUL 42, N/S, medium build, average height, sensitive, likes pubs, cinema, music, meals out, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338997**

LONELY widow, misses hugs and genuine TLC, seeks loyal, understanding female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380340**

DAVID 51, divorced, lonely, shy, N/S, black hair, likes most things, seeks similar female, 45 plus for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337613**

ASSERTIVE businessman seeks female for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338851**

BUSINESSMAN seeks female for passionate adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380418**

GENUINE male, 45, no ties, GSOH, sexy, honest, smoker, seeks nice female, any age/nationality/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335099**

5FT 10ins male, 58, widow, likes cooking, travel, dogs, seeks female, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379850**

TALL slim, dark haired, attractive male, young 54, seeks attractive, slim female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334557**

SOLVENT fit Director, 50's, seeks quality, slim, pretty, intelligent female with GSOH, 30-40, must like sailing and music. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337879**

COLIN youthful attractive 45, dark hair/eyes, slim-medium build, seeks fun, attractive female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337673**

MALE seeks black/foreign female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337875**

GAY singles seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY883** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service.

EDWARD 60, 5ft 8ins, clean shaven, seeks mature TV, 55-80 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380614**

VIC 70, fit, healthy, own home, seeks CD male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338903**

GAY lad, 26, straight acting, blond hair, blue eyes, slim, toned, down to earth, many interests, seeks down to earth similar guy for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333313**

MALE passive, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, seeks white/black/Oriental male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380758**

MID 50's smart guy, good looking, Christian, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, OHAC, GSOH, seeks similar guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330797**

ALAN 36, gay, fun loving, sociable, likes meals out, cooking, seeks similar gay male for 1-2-1 relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380252**

LAUREN 44, sporty, adventurous, seeks female of similar age or older. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332645**

SURREY couple, both 55, her busty, seeks bi female, 35-55 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379402**

JUST good friends

PETER 61, bi, 5ft 8ins, medium-stocky build, dark hair, likes music, meals out, seeks male/couple for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379924**

SINGLE lady, blonde, straight, educated, likes meals out, coffee shops, horse racing, seeks single male/female for friendship only in local area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379166**

ADULT INTEREST

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Holly good show by apprentice

THE manager of the Erith branch of discount store Savers has been named apprentice of the year.

Holly Manley, 20, has worked for the store's parent company AS Watson for three years, during which time she has risen rapidly through the ranks.

She received her apprentice of the year award at a ceremony hosted by Claire Young, who was a runner-up in the fourth series of BBC One show The Apprentice.

AS Watson HR director Jo Mackie said: "Holly's progression shows what can be achieved with passion and hard work, and is a fabulous example of how an apprenticeship can provide opportunities and expand your career."

Diplomas a real pharmacy tonic

STUDENTS at Medway School of Pharmacy are celebrating after becoming the first to collect postgraduate diplomas in general pharmacy practice.

All those who completed the programme have been working at NHS hospitals in Kent for the past three years. Programme leader Linda Dodds said: "Fitting studying around a full-time job is a huge challenge and they should all be congratulated for their hard work and commitment."

Medway School of Pharmacy is run jointly by the universities of Kent and Greenwich and is based at the institutions' shared Chatham Maritime campus.

Keep it in the nuclear family

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

NUCLEAR technicians of the future received tips from the top as part of their work experience at Dungeness B power station.

Youngsters from Cleeve Park School in Bexley, the Marsh Academy in Romney Marsh, and Harvey Grammar in Folkestone, all benefited from week-long placements at the plant, which is owned and operated by EDF Energy.

Each student was given at least one employee to shadow throughout the course of their stay, which the French firm hopes will breed its workforce of the future.

Anne Tapper, work experience manager at the Bexley Education Business Partnership, said: "The relationship we have with Dungeness B has been a vital way of breathing life into the subjects we study in the classroom.

"Work placements at the power station demonstrate first-hand to our students that if they work hard they really can become tomorrow's engineers, chemists and technicians."

Jenny Hollingsbee, director of work-related vocational education at the Marsh Academy, said: "The academy is quite an isolated school so it is particularly important that large employers like Dungeness B are willing to provide opportunities for our students.

"The skilled, wide-ranging roles at the station are always of interest to students."

The work experience scheme is just one of several educational initiatives carried out by EDF to ensure it continues to have access to the country's best engineers and scientists.

Dungeness B is already home to 23 apprentices from the South East, with a further six due to join them this month.

At the heart of the firm's investment is a £3.5 million Nuclear Power Academy in Hampshire, which recently celebrated its second anniversary, and a £10m contract with the specialist nuclear training company Flagship.

SWITCHED ON: Marcus Allan enjoyed his work experience time at Dungeness B

EDF also runs the Nuclear Engineer Development Programme aimed at people already working in science and engineering, which attracted 850 applicants in its first wave.

The work experience at Dungeness was taken up by six teenagers, all of whom have aspirations of a career in engineering.

Marcus Allan, 15, from Cleeve Park, said: "I really enjoyed working at Dungeness B and spent time with lots of departments.

"In the workshops I helped to solder equipment, then helped carry out tests on a diesel generator. When I leave school next year I want to apply for a mechanical engineering apprenticeship at the power station."

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For more information call
Training Solutions at Thanet College on 01843 605032
or email training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk

THANET COLLEGE
Train to Gain
Thanet College TRAINING SOLUTIONS At Work Through Work For Work

Natural selection for award

CHARLES Darwin's former Down House home, near Bromley, has won a Sandford Award for the educational programmes laid on by English Heritage. Pupils who visit the historic site are able to learn what Darwin was like as a person, explore the gardens that inspired his scientific research, investigate how he came up with the theory of evolution and more.

English Heritage education director Sandra Stancliffe said: "Taking part in a Discovery Visit – available at many English Heritage properties – makes learning meaningful and memorable for pupils and teachers."

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CCL LABEL
ASHFORD, UNITED KINGDOM

CCL is a global print packaging manufacturer working in partnership with the largest consumer brands and pharmaceutical companies throughout the world. Our plants deploy leading-edge technologies to provide customers with innovative and secure labelling solutions.

Executive Team Leader

We currently have an exciting full-time opportunity based at our Ashford site for the above position. The main duties will include:

- Leading a team of Account Executives, providing management, support and mentoring
- Ensuring all new and existing business is managed to very high standards
- Supporting and working closely with the External Sales team
- Maximising the potential within existing customer base, producing monthly performance reports, and other related duties.

The successful candidate will be a motivated individual with previous experience working at a high level in an internal Sales role. You will have experience of leading a team and ideally have people management experience. It is essential to have excellent written, communication and presentation skills and a proven track record of managing large commercial Customer Accounts ideally in Pharmaceutical or Agro-Chemical arenas. It would be a significant advantage if you had experience working in the print packaging industry. This is a challenging and rewarding role working for a professional and progressive company.

Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to:

Glynn Moyles (gmoyles@cclind.com) UK sales Manager (Healthcare & Consumer)
CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH Tel: 01233 503333

SC MOTOR FACTORS

DELIVERY DRIVERS & WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

Tunbridge Wells

We are Kent's largest independent motor factor with 6 branches across the South East and over 25 years experience of supplying car parts to garages and workshops. We will shortly be opening a new branch in Tunbridge Wells and have opportunities for:

Delivery Drivers - £5.80-£5.91 per hour + bonus

We are looking for customer orientated, friendly, reliable, trustworthy and enthusiastic individuals to deliver car parts. You will need to have a full driving license with no more than 3 points and be able to work alternate Saturdays.

Warehouse Assistant
Salary negotiable depending on experience

We are looking for a hard working, trustworthy, reliable and enthusiastic individual to assist with incoming and outgoing deliveries in our warehouse. You will need to have previous experience of working in a busy warehouse environment and be able to work Saturday mornings. Knowledge of car parts would be desirable.

To apply or for further information, please call Peta Budd or Julia Hall on 0208 308 6812/6813. Alternatively you can email humanresources@scmf.co.uk or visit our website www.scmf.co.uk for an application form.

Closing date: 13th August 2010

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General Domestic Assistant

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Required

To assist in the provision of complete range of social, physical and personal care to adults with learning and physical disabilities, with the aim to enhance their independence in all areas.
Position part-time. Varied hours.
Need to drive due to locations.

For more information contact Sally Brooks
Tel: 01795 886220 or email:
ellenscourt@btconnect.com

Junior CAD Operator

Duties to include general office work. I.T skills are essential. Would suit someone who is enthusiastic, friendly and confident, with a willingness to work hard. Must be reliable and punctual. Further training will be given to the right candidate.

Please apply in writing to Mr Ron Twyman,
Piper Double Glazing Limited,
140 Newington Road,
Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP
or e-mail
ron@piperwindows.co.uk.

PIPER
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Hildenborough Volvo

SUNDAY RECEPTIONIST / HOST

We are looking to recruit a Sunday Receptionist / Host to be the first point of contact in our busy showroom.

11am – 4pm on Sundays.

The successful applicant will possess an excellent telephone manner, be of smart appearance and have a pleasant and confident approach to 'meet and greet' our customers.

To apply please send or e mail your CV
Clive Levett, General Sales Manager
Hildenborough Volvo,
140 Tonbridge Road,
Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HJ
Tel No : 01732 832424
Email : cl@hildenborough.co.uk

VOLVO

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Nursery Manager – Seagulls, Margate

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Benefits include pension scheme and discounted gym membership

The post holder will be responsible for the day to day management and operation of the nursery to deliver a quality childcare experience for our customers. Applicants must have an NVQ level 3 in childcare or NNEB qualification (or equivalent) with at least 4 years post qualification experience gained in a similar setting. They must also be able to demonstrate good business and financial management skills.

To register your interest in this position please call our Head Office on 01843 868302 to request an application form and job and person specification

Closing Date: Monday 9th August 2010

The National Autistic Society

NAS KENT SERVICES - GRAVESEND

The National Autistic Society is a charity which runs special schools and adult centres throughout the country and provides a range of support services for people with autism and their carers.

Does 'difference' attract you? Can you accept that each bit of progress may bring a new problem? Are you willing to adapt your natural style of social interaction? Have you got high levels of imagination? Are you prepared to work in a team?

Senior Practitioner

Residential Home supporting adults with autism

A fantastic opportunity for a focused individual to take on the role of house senior working in Gravesend.
You will work with and deputise for the Registered Manager to ensure a high quality service, care and manage the smooth running of the home.
Minimum of 2 years experience within the care profession and preferably have some knowledge of autism. You will be working a flexible schedule including evening and weekends.
Salary range £18,470 - £27,359 dependent on experience.
If you have the ability to lead and motivate others with good communication skills both written and verbal and you wish for the opportunity to step up to a new challenge please phone 01474 535057 for an application form and job description.

Applications are sought from all suitably qualified sections of the community but particularly welcome from those with a diagnosis of autism or Asperger's Syndrome.

Closing date for applications: 26 August 2010.
Interview date will be confirmed to successful applicants.

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We have an opportunity for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market-leading portfolio of newspapers and magazines.

We're not looking for people to just take orders; we're looking for people who can provide first class solutions for our customers.
We believe good customer service is at the heart of our success and we want to recruit people who can develop excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

Telesales Team Leader (office based)
As with the above vacancy we are also looking for an experienced telephone sales executive who is seeking to further their career, as well as develop and enhance our telephone sales team.

Digital Sales Executives
You will play the key role in selling advertising and sponsorship across our market-leading portfolio of websites and mobile products.

The ideal candidate will possess a proven track record in media sales, combining excellent communication and presentation skills, a great business acumen, tenacity, and the ability to build positive business relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured sales technique, a positive manner and great all-round organisation and IT skills.

Events and Exhibitions Sales Executive
You will play the key role in selling and coordinating our groups events, exhibitions and sponsorship across our market-leading portfolio of newspapers, magazines, show guides, websites and mobile products.

All vacancies come with the opportunity to earn high bonus potential, which is uncapped and based on your skills and desire to achieve major market share gains.

We're looking for professional individuals who are able to take ownership for their client group and work on their own initiative. Above all you will need to deliver total commitment and dedication to the business to help us continue to be the very best.

Applicants must have a full and valid manual driving licence. Ideal candidates will be computer literate with a sales/marketing background and the ability to provide industry-leading customer service.

Sales, Marketing and Data Administrator
Your role will be to champion our brands and strive to deliver the best marketing and administration solutions through print and online media as well as events.

Your enthusiasm will be for the organisation and delivery of first class database building, servicing reader offers and many other product services, including attending some of our sponsored events.

You will be resourceful and creative and will be expected to work independently at times. No two days will be the same, so you must enjoy working in a fast-paced environment.

You will be a good all-round administrator and have the ability to adapt to a wide range of tasks.

Other Vacancies
KOS Media is always interested to hear from people with ideas who would be interested in a career in multi-media, within local or regional markets.

Whatever your skill set and experience is, please do tell us about yourself and send in your CV, with a covering letter, telling us what you have to offer and how you see yourself working at an innovative media company such as KOS Media.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

To apply send your CV with covering letter to:
Jason Pyne, Development Director
KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.
Or by email: jason.pyne@kosmedia.co.uk

About us
KOS Media publishes the UK award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and a series of free weekly newspapers, magazines and associated websites and mobile products.

The company produces kentnews.co.uk and yourkentTV, an internet-based TV service providing regional and local news, business and sport, plus websites for jobs, property and motors.

KOS Media's newspapers have won more than 10 national awards, including UK Regional Newspaper of the Year, and UK Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year six times.

In June, 2010, media group Archant purchased KOS Media.

Archant is the UK's largest independently owned regional media business

It is a community media company active in the fields of regional newspaper and magazine publishing, contract printing and internet communications. All its titles serve clearly defined communities, based around locations or interest groups.

Archant can trace its roots back more than 160 years and today remains one of the country's largest independent media businesses. As a private company it employs 1,850 people right across England. It has an annual turnover of £142 million.

The newspapers division, Archant Regional, produces four daily regional newspapers and around 60 weekly titles with a combined circulation of 2.25 million copies every week. It is a UK top six regional newspaper publisher. It also publishes many of the group's 180 websites and a number of its magazines.

Archant also owns three magazine companies, which between them produce around 80 magazines.

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1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
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9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
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11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
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14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008–June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS media

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the fabric warehouse

Assistant Store Manager

Salary dependent on experience from £13K

As a leading fabric store we have a vacancy for an enthusiastic Assistant Store Manager. Retail experience is essential as well as excellent sales & people management skills. Ideally you will have 2-3 years supervisory experience. Please email your CV & covering letter to sb@caldeira.com

Fabric Warehouse Maidstone, Unit 14-15 Industrial Business Centre, St Peter's Street, Maidstone ME16 0ST

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required for busy Chatham dental practice.
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Company require

SALES PEOPLE AND TRAINEE SALES PEOPLE

No experience necessary, full training provided. Excellent rates of pay and good prospects.

Call 01732 760484.

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FLEXIBLE SHIFT PATTERNS ACROSS THE WEEKEND • COMPETITIVE PAY RATES

OPPORTUNITIES IN MAIDSTONE AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES, CANTERBURY AND FOLKESTONE

A more rewarding role? How about providing high-quality care for older people, so they can live independently in their own homes? We'll give you full training, so you don't need experience. If you can make a real difference, we can offer a career path that could take you from Carer to Area Supervisor or even Management level. You must have your own transport though. Our excellent benefits include:

- Paid mileage
- Free life assurance
- Pension and uniform
- Paid holidays and paid CRB check

For more information and to find out when our next recruitment open day is being held, or to apply, please call 01303 757399 and quote reference SIL422.

saga.co.uk

SAGA
Caring done properly

Apprenticeships making a vision become a reality

South East Coachworks is revolutionising and revitalising an industry with craftsmanship that brings young people as well as older people together who either want to retrain or learn specialist skills through our craftsman apprenticeships.

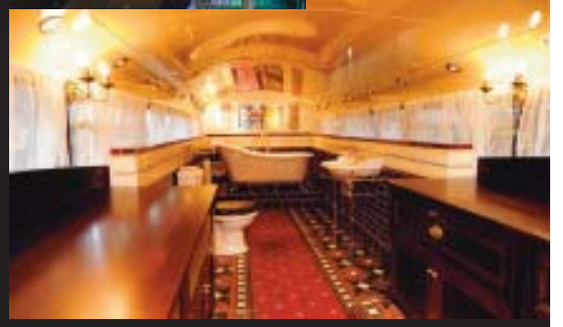
Our highly skilled craftsmen are developing and recruiting in the following trades:

- Carpentry
- Bodywork and panelling
- Upholstery and trimming
- Electrics
- Welding
- Mechanics

We pride ourselves on harnessing the very best practices and our vision and passion for our bespoke services from sign writing to coach building and refurbishment is taking our business forward through our mission statement, "craftsmanship and reliability".

Our current team of staff ranges from 18 to 65 and we believe that the diversity of the generations within the workplace is the future of our trade. We have a vision where our trainees will stay and learn with us over many years and potentially go on secondment to other countries with our support as they build on our growing reputation of skill sets and passion for craftsmanship.

Our client list includes such names as **Adidas, Superdrug, Kent County Council** and **Capital Radio** to name but a few. This is a positive and exciting time for South East Coachworks as we plan to pass our passion, commitment, skills and experience to ensure that the education and art of our industry flourishes by providing a training academy.



> "Students are encouraged to earn as they learn. And now I am able to pass my experience and knowledge onto the next apprentices."
> *Ben Turner – recently qualified coach builder.*

We welcome applications from all ages and backgrounds. We would also welcome experienced craftsmen who would like to develop people within our apprenticeship scheme and therefore put something back for the young people who are our future.

In the first instance, please visit our website and complete the online application form at www.southeastcoachworks.co.uk or apply in writing to us at South East Coachworks Limited, The Old Coach Station, 38 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8PE. Fax 01795 536888.

Closing date 31 August 2010.

SOUTH EAST COACHWORKS CRAFTSMANSHIP AND RELIABILITY

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TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT
WINNER

Community Drug Workers

£21,519 – £27,849 per annum • 37 hours per week
Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,239 per annum
Based East and West Kent

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable. A qualification to diploma level in a relevant area – nursing, counselling or social work for example is essential. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk Alternatively, you can email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three.
Please quote reference number 695.

Closing date: 20 August 2010 at 5.00pm

Interview date: 9 September 2010 in Ashford.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

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Scott Care Ltd

Exciting roles – for those who care

Service Manager Sittingbourne Branch

As Service Manager, you'll lead our team on adult protection issues and quality assurance, pushing our high standards even further. Whether it's sharing out daily assignments or communicating with care management teams to help improve the lives of our service users. You will work in partnership with KCC, managing our 'out of hours' team, Care Coordinators and Team Leaders. Transport and experience in care is essential.
Please call number below for an application pack.

Tel: 0845 680 0506 www.scottcare.co.uk

Charlier Construction Ltd
PAINTERS

Qualified painters with a sound knowledge of their trade are required immediately. Applicants having their own transport, CSCS card and tools will have an advantage.

Tel: 01303 268211 Fax: 01303 268661
8-12 Stade Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 6BE
www.charlierconstruction.com

Scott Care Ltd

Exciting roles – for those who care
Ashford & Sittingbourne Branches now open recruiting

Care Workers

With support from our Care Workers, service users can stay in their homes and still receive assistance and personal care. From preparing meals to helping out with shopping, you'll be a vital social link for those who rarely go out – or simply can't. You'll need a car and mobile phone, but we'll provide a uniform and pay for mileage. Experience isn't essential, as we offer full training. We pay a higher rate of pay for NVQ Qualified Care Workers. Please call number below for an application pack.

Tel: 0845 680 0506 www.scottcare.co.uk

PART TIME MERCHANDISER

Kos Media is one of the fastest growing multi media companies serving the county of Kent.

We publish 14 weekly titles including the award winning Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday, as well 20 news websites.

We are looking to expand our promotional activity in the West of the county, promoting Tunbridge Wells on Saturday and Tunbridge Wells on Sunday, and are looking for a merchandiser for the area, to ensure that these products are displayed, and promoted in a professional way.

The duties will include visiting newsagents and outlets and also handing out promotional copies in the centre of Tunbridge Wells, and surrounding area.

The successful candidate will need to be flexible, and self motivated, as well as having good communication skills. The hours will be 10 hours per week with a hourly rate of £7.50, mileage will also be paid.

To apply please contact **Barbara Coker** on **01303 817072**
or email **barbara.coker@kosmedia.co.uk**

KOS Media | Apple Barn | Hythe Road | Smeeth | Ashford | Kent | TN25 6SS
www.kentnews.co.uk | www.jobsforkent.co.uk | www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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Full training provided
Own car/ref essential
Immediate start –
long term prospects
Call 01732 887091
or email CV to
thehousefairies@tiscali.co.uk

PAINTERS

required must have UTR number and CSCS card. Must have experience in new build.
Call 01322 666955

Independent Care & Support Ltd

currently have the following vacancies for:

- **Weekend Staff**
- **Evening Staff**
- **Full Time Staff**

Must be flexible.
Car and telephone essential.
In return we offer excellent rates of pay, petrol and travel allowances, training up to NVQ Level.

For more information, please ring 01634 730004 (during office hours)

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

We are a local manufacturer and have created a new position for a

Continuous Improvement Facilitator

to develop and implement improvement programmes

You will have a successful record in a Continuous Improvement role, knowledge of lean tools and techniques and be able to negotiate at all levels and drive change throughout the business. In return we offer a competitive salary and benefits.

To apply send your CV to **jolson@hvwooding.co.uk**
or telephone Jennie Olson on **01303 236538**

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Jobs for Kent continues on page 69...

THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Plaster Technician

To join our Flexi Bank

Closing date for applications – 31 August 2010

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Sue Bowe, Outpatient Sister - 01843 234555 Ext: 63425

For job description and application form please contact:

Mandy Oliver or Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 • Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com
or jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Westlands School

Following the success of the initiative to reduce the number of hours that a teacher has to spend covering for absent colleagues we require as soon as possible another

LESSON SUPERVISOR

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence and excellent communication skills.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to further education level, and have experience of giving support in the classroom, preferably as a Teaching Assistant, although other qualifications and personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-service training course. There will be a six-month probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hr unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day and 25 days paid holiday a year, or as relevant to years of service in a similar post.

Salary starting at £16,793 rising to £18,471 (pro-rata)
(equal to £12,516 - £13,766 depending on experience)

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date,

Friday 27 August 2010

The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: office@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA

HEAD TEACHER

(Group 1) Salary Scale: L1 – L18
St. John's Church of England VC Infant School,
4 New Street, Chatham. ME4 6RH Tel: (01634) 844135

Following retirement, our friendly, one-form entry school in central Chatham needs a caring, enthusiastic and forward-thinking head-teacher, starting January 2011. With a strong Christian ethos, the school celebrates cultural diversity, working closely with the local community, the local Parish Church and as a feeder school with Balfour Junior School. The new head teacher will value and develop these relationships. With proven management experience at KS1, you will build and manage a team to continue a 148 year tradition of excellent education for pupils of all abilities and backgrounds in a "happy and harmonious atmosphere" (Ofsted 2009).

Come and visit ***"The Village School in the Heart of Medway"***

Please phone Mrs. L. Day at the school from 1st September to make an appointment.

St. John's Infant School is committed to safeguarding young people. The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check. Applications will only be accepted by application form and supporting letter. References will be taken up before interviews, to be held during the week beginning 27th September.

For an application pack, please contact: Susan Bowers, HR Services, Schools, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham. Kent ME4 4TR Tel: (01634) 331100 email susan.bowers@medway.gov.uk

Starting date: **1st January 2011**
Closing date for applications: **1pm Friday 17th September**

The Westlands School

Teaching Assistant

Required for September 2010

To work at The Westlands Primary School, Homewood Avenue

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support pupils who have various learning difficulties in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis.

27 hours a week, term time only.

Kent Pay Band 2/3 £12,903 - £15,984 (pro rata)

(equal to £7,765 - £9619 depending on experience)

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.

Closing date, Friday 20 August 2010

The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: office@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher:
J Whitcombe MA

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CITY VIEW PRE-SCHOOL & NURSERIES LTD

City View Pre-school and Nurseries Ltd wish to employ the following;

- Qualified and experienced **SUPERVISOR** required for their under 2 year olds room.
- **BREAKFAST / AFTER SCHOOL CLUB ASSISTANT** (16 hours approx). Play work qualification are preferable but not essential.

Both positions commence September 2010 and are subject to term time only (at present). Previous experience essential from all applicants.
Enhanced CRB check will be sought for successful candidate.

Application packs will be sent to those leaving a name / address clearly on 01227 784694 or please email mrsdawn.williams@virgin.net.

Closing date - Monday 16th August 2010

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Advanced Skills Lecturer in Civil Engineering *Ref: P0333*

Salary: c40K per annum
Medway

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in leading the development of Civil Engineering programmes across the Faculty of Design and Construction. The successful candidate will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold a Degree or higher qualification in Civil Engineering or a related specialism. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 20 August 2010
INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD THE WEEK COMMENCING 30 AUGUST 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College | Investors in Diversity | RBLI | MidKent College

...**Jobs for Kent** continued from page 36

Teachers Needed
Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✔ Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- ✔ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
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Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

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or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

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EDUCATION RESOURCING
(Agy)

Committed to equal opportunities

St Joseph's **Preparatory School**

Requires for the start of this academic year from 1 September 2010

SCHOOL SECRETARY/PA TO THE HEADTEACHER

Applications are invited from motivated, enthusiastic, well-organised, experienced secretaries, preferably with an understanding of the administration needs of a busy Independent School Office, who will be sympathetic to the Catholic ethos of the School.

For further information and an application form please contact the Headteacher: Mrs Carola Timney – headteacher@sjcps.org

46 Old Road East. Gravesend. Kent DA12 1NR
Tel: 01474 533012 Fax: 01474 363132
www.sjcps.org

PART-TIME KITCHEN ASSISTANT

STONE BAY SCHOOL

Required from late September 2010. Duties will include distribution of food for the evening meals to residential staff, washing up returned dishes and general kitchen cleaning. The hours are 3.30pm to 7.00pm every Monday to Thursday and 3.30pm to 7.00pm on alternate Fridays. This is an average of 15.75 hours per week and is term time only.

The salary is at Kent Scheme Band 2 points 4 to 7 which is £4529 to £4949 per year (£6.69 to £7.31 per hour).

Stone Bay School is committed to the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children and employees are required to have an enhanced CRB disclosure.

If you are interested in applying for this post please phone (01843 863421), e-mail (finance@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk) or write to Mrs Ann Hickmott, Stone Bay School, 70 Stone Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1EB for an application form. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 1st September 2010, and interviews will be held the following week.

Following the recent merger of West Kent College and South Kent College, we are looking forward to an exciting future of growth and development. Combining the resources, commitment and ambition of our teams, the new College has campuses stretching right across Kent, from Ashford, Dover and Folkestone to Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

Would you like to make a real contribution to Further Education? We are looking for individuals experienced in their profession to join us who have a passion for learner achievement and success. We currently have the following opportunities available:

- **Lecturer in Catering**
  (Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours - Dover
- **Lecturer in Public Services**
  (Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours - Folkestone
- **Lecturer in Trowel Trades**
  (Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours - Ashford
- **Lecturer in ESOL**
  18.5 hours per week - Folkestone
- **Lecturer in Motor Vehicle**
  37 hours per week - Dover
- **Lecturer in Sports & Sports Massage**
  29.6 hours per week - Folkestone

If you feel any of these roles are the challenge you are looking for please visit our website for full details: www.southkent.ac.uk or contact us for an application pack: 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone); email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of completed applications for these posts is 12pm, Monday 23rd August 2010.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

SKC New College coming soon

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

The smart way to find your next job **JobsforKent.co.uk**

Highways - District of Ashford

COURT LODGE ROAD, APPLEDORE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on Court Lodge Road, Appledore from 9 August 2010 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with The Street and Ferry Road.

The alternative route is via via B2080 The Street, Tenterden Road and Ferry Road.

CHART ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of realigning the centre line of the road, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on Chart Road, Ashford from 25 August 2010 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with the A28 Templar Way and A292 Maidstone Road. There will be no access for though traffic between the hours of 10.00 pm and 6.00 am.

The alternative route is via A28 Templar Way and A292 Maidstone Road.

Highways - District of Canterbury

MICKLEBURGH HILL/MARGATE ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on Mickleburgh Hill/Margate Road, Herne Bay from 9 August 2010 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with Reculver Road and the north roundabout of the A299 Thanet Way junction.

The alternative route is via Mickleburgh Hill, A291 Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way and Margate Road.

THANET WAY SERVICE ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on Thanet Way Service Road, Whitstable from 27 August 2010 for up to 5 nights or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Reeves Way parallel to the A2990 Thanet Way to the junction with Clover Rise.

The alternative route is via Reeves Way, A2990 Thanet Way and Clover Rise.

ST MARY'S STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of external repairs to Linen House, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on St Mary's Street, Canterbury from 23 August 2010 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Linen House. There will be no access for though traffic weekdays only, between the hours of 8.00 am and 4.30 pm.

The alternative route is via Castle Street, Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town, Watling Street & Marlowe Avenue.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of St Mary's Street to allow access, when the relevant signs are covered.

There will be a suspension of the One-Way Traffic Order in respect of Marlow Street, between the junctions with St Mary's Street and St John's Lane, when the signs are covered.

B2068 ST LAWRENCE ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on B2068 St Lawrence Road, Canterbury on or after 27 August 2010 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Old Dover Road and New Dover Road.

The alternative route is via Old Dover Road and A2050 New Dover Road.

A290 ST PETER'S PLACE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway resurfacing works, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on A290 St Peter's Place, Canterbury from 26 August 2010 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from West Gate Towers to the south of the junction with Tower Way. Access to Tower Way will be maintained.

The alternative route is via A290 St Peter's Place, A2050 Rheims Way, London Road and A290 St Dunstan's Street.

Pound Lane will be closed at its junction with St Peter's Place. The alternative route is via The Causeway and North Lane, then following the alternative route shown above.

SCHOOL LANE & MILL LANE, HERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on School Lane & Mill Lane, Herne from 24 August 2010 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Herne Street and A299 Thanet Way slip road. The works will be carried out in phases as detailed below. The actual timings will be as signposted on site.

Extent of road affected

Phase 1:
School Lane between Herne Street and Broomfield Road

Alternative Route: Herne Street, Canterbury Road, Millview Road, Mill Lane, Hunters Forstal Road, Hawe Farm Way and Broomfield Road

Phase 2:
Mill Lane between Broomfield Road and Hunters Forstal Road

Alternative Route: Broomfield Road, Hawe Farm Road and Hunters Forstal Road

Phase 3:
Mill Lane between Hunters Forstal Road and A299 Thanet Way slip road

Alternative Route: Margate Road and Broomfield Road

Highways - Borough of Dartford

HEATH LANE, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Heath Lane, Dartford at its junction with Princes Road for a distance (NE) of 60m.

The Order will become effective on 9th August 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Highfield Road, Princes Road and Heath Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate construction works to the traffic island.

Highways - District of Dover

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Dover District from 23 August 2010 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads will be closed as shown below.

Telegraph Road, Deal
from 23 August 2010 for up to 3 days

Between the junctions with Freemens Way and Hamilton Road.

Alternative route via Freemens Way, Mill Hill, Mill Road and Hamilton Road

Stonyway Lane, Hougham
from 31 August 2010 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

From the junction with Elms Vale Road to Elms Farm, with no access for though traffic between Elms Hill and Parsonage Farm Road.

Alternative route via Elms Vale Road, B2011 Folkestone Road, Plough Hill, Doctors Lane and Stonyway Lane

Balmoral Road, Kingsdown
from 6 September 2010 for up to 5 days

Between the junctions with Glen Road and Edward Road.

Alternative route via Glen Road, Sea Road and Balmoral Road.

Eight Acres, Hougham
from 15 September 2010 for up to 3 days

Between the junctions with The Street, Hougham and Broadsole Lane.

Alternative route via The Street, Hougham and Broadsole Lane

Brook Street, Eastry
from 20 September 2010 for up to 4 days

Between Lower Street and Hay Hill

Alternative route via Hay Hill, Updown Lane, Northbourne Road, A256 Eastry Bypass, Dover Road and Lower Street

Bowling Green Lane, Deal
from 4 October 2010 for up to 1 week

Between London Road and Middle Deal Road.

Alternative route via London Road and Middle Deal Road.

MIDDLE STREET & SILVER STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of replace the gas supply, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on Middle Street & Silver Street, Deal on or after 10 August 2010 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

Middle Street will be closed outside no.145. There will be no access for though traffic between the junctions of Golden Street and Griffin Street. Silver Street will be closed at the junction with Middle Street.

The alternative route is via Griffin Street, High Street and New Street.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

LONDON ROAD, WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CYCLE LANE) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order suspending the cycle only lane traffic order on London Road, West Kingsdown between the Texaco garage and Hever Road.

The Order will become effective on 9th August 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. This suspension will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the suspension is to facilitate alterations to existing vehicle cross over and splitter island at 3 Horseshoes.

OAK LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Oak Lane, Sevenoaks between its junctions with Dibden Lane and Fig Street.

The Order will become effective on 9th August 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 6 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Ashgrove Road, Weald Road, A225 Tonbridge Road, Gracious Lane and Oak Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate gas mains replacement.

Highways - District of Shepway

SIR JOHN MOORE AVENUE, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on Sir John Moore Avenue, Hythe from 9 August 2010 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at its west junction with Military Road. The alternative route is via the east junction with Military Road.

BECKETT ROAD, BROOKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on Beckett Road, Brookland from 9 August 2010 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with A259 Rye Road and Sconces Bridge. There will be no access for though traffic between the junctions with Rye Road and Harvey Road.

The alternative route is via A259 Rye Road and Harvey Road.

SANDLING ROAD, SALTWOOD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on Sandling Road, Saltwood on or after 11 August 2010 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with A20 Ashford Road and Sandling Railway Station.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, A261 Hythe Road, London Road, Barrack Hill, North Road, Bartholemew Lane, School Road and Sandling Road.

Highways – District of Swale

VICARAGE LANE, OSPRINGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of upgrading the water mains and works on the M2 overbridge, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on Vicarage Lane, Ospringe from 9 August 2010 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with the pumping station northwards for a distance of approximately 300 metres. There will be no access for though traffic between the junctions of Brogdale Road and Mutton Lane.

The alternative route is via Vicarage Lane, Water Lane, A2 London Road and Brogdale Road.

A2 DOVER STREET, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on A2 Dover Street, Sittingbourne from 25 August 2010 for up to 2 nights or until the works have been completed. It is planned the works will be carried out between the hours of 8.00 pm and midnight.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Church Street and West Street.

The alternative route is via A2 Station Road, St Michael's Road, Crown Quay Lane, B2006 Eurolink Way/Mill Way, B2205 St Paul's Street, B2006 Staplehurst Road, Sheppey Way, and A2 Key Street/London Road.

CULLETT DRIVE, RUSHENDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway maintenance and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on Cullett Drive, Rushenden on or after 23 August 2010 for up to 2 nights or until the works have been completed.

It is planned the road will be closed between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed from the junction with Rushenden Road to the junction with Argent Road.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

Highways - District of Thanet

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) N(AMENDMENT NO 29) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road:-

Upper Dane Road
(1) On the south west side between points 10 metres north east and 10 metres south west of the junction with Olave Road;

(2) on the north east side

- between points 10 metres south east and 10 metres north west of the junction with Victoria Road;
- from a point 10 metres south east of the junction with Alfred Road to a point opposite a point with the common boundary of Nos 48 and 50 Upper Dane Road;

Victoria Road
On both sides from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 10 metres in a north easterly direction

Hastings Avenue
On the north east side between points 10 metres north east and 10 metres south west of the junction with Olave Road;

Alfred Road
On both sides from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 10 metres in a north easterly direction;

Olave Road
On both sides

(a) from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 10 metres in a south westerly direction;

(b) from the junction with Hastings Avenue for a distance of 10 metres in a north easterly direction.

The Order was sealed on 30 July 2010 and will come into force 9 August 2010.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

GEORGE HILL ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting traffic on George Hill Road, Broadstairs on or after 16 August 2010 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Whiteness Green and Whiteness Road.

The alternative route is via B2053 Green Lane, Northdown Hill, Westover Road, Beacon Road, Grange Road, Callis Court Road, Elmwood Avenue, Joss Gap Road, Kingsgate Bay Road and Whiteness Road

The alternative route for light vehicles is via Reading Street Road and Convent Road.

MEVERALL AVENUE, RAMSGATE & FAIR STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting traffic on Meverall Avenue, Ramsgate and Fair Street, Broadstairs on or after 26 August 2010 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Meverall Avenue, Ramsgate will be closed from 26 August 2010 for up to 2 days between the hours of 9.00 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed at the junction with A256 Sandwich Road. The alternative route is via A256 Sandwich Road and Cliffsend Road.

Fair Street, Broadstairs will be closed from 31 August 2010 for up to 1 day between the hours of 9.00 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between property numbers 42 to 46. The alternative route is via Fairfield Road, Bromstone Road and Wilkes Road.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

TUDELEY LANE, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Tudeley Lane at The Priory Mill Bridge on or after Monday 9th August 2010 for a period of up to 6 months or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Tudeley Lane, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Woodgate Way, Five Oak Green Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to demolish and rebuild the Priory Mill Bridge for highway safety. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Martin Addison of Ringway Highway Services Ltd on 08458 247 800.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

A26 LONDON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic traveling at any speed greater than 30mph on A26 London Road from Quarry Hill for 1.5 miles traveling west on or after Monday 9th August 2010 for a period of up to 6 weeks or until such works are completed.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for highway improvement works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Darren Hickman on 08458 247 800.

GLADSTONE ROAD, RUSTHALL (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order to introduce a temporary 24 hour no-waiting restriction on either side of Gladstone Road, Rusthall from the junction of the High Street to outside Simmonds Court on or after Monday 9th August 2010 for a period of up to 15 months or until such works are completed.

Denne Construction Limited apologise for any inconvenience caused, as it is necessary to keep their construction site access clear. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact number is 01795 434700.

A26 ST. JOHN'S ROAD, ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2010 (BUS LANE) ORDER 2010 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1. 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to extend the existing bus lane on the A26 St John's Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

In line with The Kent County Council policy to improve the efficiency of bus routes within the county, Kent Highway Services have secured funding through the Local Transport Plan to extend one of the existing bus lanes on the A26 St Johns Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

The proposed southbound bus lane will require the road to be widened on the eastern side adjacent to the petrol station; which will also include a shared cycleway footway on the eastern side of St John's Road.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the bus lanes may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Offices, Town Hall, Old Town Hill, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS

Anyone wishing to support, or object to this proposal should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B128280o" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 30th August 2010.

Highways - Boroughs of Tonbridge & Malling, Sevenoaks & Gravesham

VARIOUS ROADS, WROTHAM, SEVENOAKS AND GRAVESEND (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2010 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 82, 83 and 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will reduce the existing National speed limit to 50mph, on the A227 Gravesend Road from a point 25.0 metres north of the mid point of its roundabout junction with the A20 London Road, to a point 205.0 metres south west of the mid point of its junction with Vigo Hill.

There is also a proposal for a new 50mph speed limit to be introduced from a point 70.0 metres north of the boundary of number 301 A227 Wrotham Road through to a point 100.0 metres south of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Over-Bridge in Gravesend, where it will tie in with the existing 40mph speed limit on the A227 approach to Gravesend.

Vigo Hill will also become subject to a new 40mph speed limit as part of the proposals, from its junction with A227 Wrotham Road, eastwards for a distance of 115.0 metres, which is the most suitable location for the entry and exit signs to be located.

A copy of the scheme proposal, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent, ME19 4LZ, Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU, Wrotham Parish Council, Web Page at www.wrothampc.kentparishes.gov.uk, Vigo Parish Council Offices, Vigo Village Hall, Vigo, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 0TD, Meopham Parish Council Offices, The Windmill, Meopham Green, Meopham, Kent DA13 0QA, Stansted Parish Council Offices, 53 Capelands, New Ash Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, DA3 8LQ and Trottiscliffe Parish Council Offices, The Willow House, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, Kent, ME19 5EB.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1408200" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 30th August 2010.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

To advertise in this section

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Inn on the Lake, A2 Shorne, Gravesend**

Applicant: **Kevin Demicoli**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/02346/HOUSE Matfield House The Green, Brenchley
- Provision of butresses to safefguard the boundary wall which is presently unstable (LB) (CA)

10/02351/LBC Matfield House The Green, Brenchley
- Listed Building Consent - Provision of butresses to safefguard the boundary wall which is presently unstable (LB)

10/02163/LBC Providence Chapel Biddenden Road, Frittenden
- Listed Building Consent: Modification of existing extension to include: removal of roof and rear wall, extension to the rear of the existing extension, new raised roof to create new first floor within the extension (LB)

10/02234/FUL Wagtail Farm Jarvis Lane, Goudhurst
- Agricultural building for housing pigs, animal feed and bedding (PROW)

10/02140/LBC Delmonden Grange Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst
- Extension of Time - Listed Building Consent - Two-storey rear extension; Removal of chimney (TW/07/03312/LBC refers) (LB)

10/02392/FUL Septimus Quayles Emporium Ockley Road, Hawkhurst
- Change of use of retail shop area to domestic living room (CA)

10/02384/FUL Orange Communication Station & Premises, Lamberhurst
- Swap 3 existing antennas for 3 new antennas on Orange mast and add small section of cable at ground level (MAST)

10/02279/HOUSE 23 Claremont Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Single storey flat roof extension to side of elevation. Cladding of external front and rear walls with featheredged weatherboarding (CA)

10/02343/HOUSE 7 Carlton Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Proposed first-floor rear extension, single-storey rear extension and the re-roofing of the property (CA)

10/02385/HOUSE 18 Princes Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and replace with a larger single storey rear extension and roof lights in main roof (CA)

10/02428/CAC West House 6 Camden Park, Park
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of existing boundary fence and gate (CA)

10/02118/LBC Old Place Church Road, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of part of the ground floor of the existing Coach House to ancilliary residential accomodation (LB)

10/02390/HOUSE The Old Rectory Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Demolition of existing porch and steps; Replace with new porch and steps; Replace all plastic rainwater goods with cast metal rainwater goods (CA) (LB)

10/02394/LBC The Old Rectory Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Demolition of existing porch and steps replace with new porch and steps; Replace all plastic rainwater goods with cast metal rainwater goods (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement. You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date. You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 07 August 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

The Insolvency Act 1986
WESTPORT DESIGN LIMITED
Company Number 04927335

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company whose principal trading address was situated at 23 Foster Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6NH will be held at Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, on 24 August 2010, at 2.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act, to receive a statement of the Company's affairs, to nominate one or more Insolvency Practitioner/s as Liquidator/s, and to consider the appointment of a Liquidation Committee. If a Liquidation Committee is not formed, the Meeting may be asked to consider other Resolutions, including the basis upon which the Liquidator/s is/are to be remunerated, and for the approval of the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meetings of Members and Creditors. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge a form of Proxy, together, with a full statement of account, at the Registered Office of the Company, c/o Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, not later than 12.00 noon on 23 August 2010. For the purposes of voting, a Secured Creditor is required, unless he surrenders his security, to lodge at the Registered Office of the Company as above, before the meeting, a statement giving full particulars of his security, the date when it was given, and the value at which it is assessed. I D Yerrill and B Hoffman (IP Nos 8924 and 1593), of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the Company, and are instructed by the Company to convene the Meeting of Creditors. Messrs Yerrill and Hoffman who may be contacted on 01233 666280, or by email on gemail@edelmans.co.uk, will during the period before the day the meeting is to be held, furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated 20 July 2010
Ronald Thomas Warren, Director

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New model and a new era for Volvo

By **STEVE LOADER**

VOLVO announced this week that it had become a wholly-owned subsidiary of fast-growing Chinese motor group, Geely.

The new owner inherits a brand in good shape. Predecessor Ford injected some good technology, notably in the form of the Focus platform that has underpinned Volvo's impressive C30/S40/V50 line-up.

Volvo fans would point out that Ford in turn benefited from some of the Swedish marque's engine input, but Ford's tighter grip on manufacture and consistency has also helped the Swedes in the same way as it did Jaguar and Land Rover before they were sold.

Indeed, Ford seemed reluctant to sell the remaining and most successful overseas component of its former Premier Automotive Group, which had also included Aston Martin as well as Jaguar and LR.

But the American giant craves cash to rebuild its own fortunes and Geely and its fellow Chinese carmakers are keen to buy access to Western motoring brands, technology and market expertise.

Geely also hits the ground running by getting its hands on Volvo's most significant model for years, the all-new S60.

It will frequently be referred to as Volvo's 'BMW 3-Series basher' though its front-wheel drive layout makes it more of a threat to the Audi A4 than BMW's sweet- handling king of the compact executive car sector.

On the other hand, Volvo has tried as hard to create a driver pleaser this time as it always does to make its cars safe.

Priced from a competitive £23,295 and blessed with the racy four-door coupé/saloon look that is all the rage – complete with concealed rear door handles – it certainly looks like a better contestant than the ageing car it replaces; I always liked the style of the outgoing car, but it looked and felt too bulky to attack BMW and Audi rivals.

Engines include an all-new five-cylinder 163bhp 2.0-litre D3 engine capable of a combined 54.3mpg to satisfy those who want their four-door coupé to have real world economy too, though the familiar Volvo twin-turbo D5 powerplant also features to give 0-62mph in 7.8 seconds yet average more than 50mpg.

There is also a fast all-wheel drive 304bhp 3.0-litre petrol T6 (from £35,695) – continuing a latter-day Volvo tradition of using 'T' to denote the performance flagship – this will hit 62mph in just 6.5 seconds.

However, Volvo cannot quite shake its roots in safety so the new car can be specified with a ground-breaking Pedestrian Detection package, which can stop a collision with a pedestrian at up to 21mph and dramatically reduce speed above that, with potentially life-saving consequences, although cynics will ask whether people will really cough up an extra £1,350 for such a selfless feature.

Standard kit includes electronic climate and cruise controls, five-inch colour screen for the 'infotainment' system, steering wheel remote audio controls, alloys and leather steering wheel and gear stick.

AVC For absolutely any make of car or commercial vehicle — we're the business!

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†(1) Typical finance example for 0% over 5 years.

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VAUXHALL

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Mmm, nice warranty

WJ King

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Vehicles shown are Spark 1.2 LT at £10,145 with metallic paint at an extra cost of £365, Cruze 1.8 LT at £15,145 with metallic paint at an extra cost of £400. Available at participating Retailers only. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Offer available on all retail registrations from 9th July 2010 to 5th October 2010 apart from all Matiz models. Certain Retail stock does not qualify. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 miles limitation. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 years/50,000 miles servicing package, expires whichever occurs first. Beyond 50,000 miles the vehicle must be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule to continue the 5 year warranty. MOT Test Warranty cover does not include the cost of the MOT test fee. MOT Test Warranty covers the MOTs carried out at year 3, 4 and 5 and has a limit of 100,000 miles. The MOT Test Warranty excludes accident damage, tyres, glass and bodywork and has a claim limit of £750 per MOT. Annual vehicle health checks have no mileage limitations. Roadside Assistance has no mileage limit but does not cover certain self-induced incidents. Terms and conditions apply please visit www.5yearpromise.co.uk or contact your nearest Retailer for details. Prices correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes. (Chev97394)

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Spark 1.2 LT: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km. Cruze 1.8 LT: Urban 30.4 (9.3), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 Emissions 159 g/km

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Juke aims high

NISSAN'S sky-high ambitions for its new UK-built Juke crossover have been underlined by signing glamorous Everest adventurer Bonita Norris to promote the car.

The 22-year-old – the youngest woman to climb the world's highest peak – is seen as the perfect match for a car expected to appeal to youthful buyers and storm market heights in the same way as the Japanese brand's other Sunderland-produced star, the Qashqai crossover.

Norris said: "The Juke defies the stereotypes and breaks the mould, I can relate to that. I'm unconventional and have a spirit of adventure that drives me to do different things and this is what the Juke represents."

Some 2,000 orders have been taken for the newcomer (priced from £12,795), which replaced the Micra on the Sunderland production line, though it is not officially available until September 24.

Join the Ibiza lifestyle club

CARMAKERS' efforts to create a smart supermini lifestyle estate have been patchy.

After all, it's a tall order creating an effective load lugger within compact dimensions, while still retaining the style that many downsizing buyers require.

But Seat seems to have hit the spot with the new Ibiza ST launched this month, priced from £12,070.

It joins the sporty Ibiza SC and practical Ibiza five-door to offer more carrying capacity – the 430 litres of 'seats-up' boot space marks a rise of 138 litres against the five-door – without compromising the Spanish brand's racy Auto Emocion image.

The newcomer is also offered with sporty turbocharged petrols and frugal turbodiesels and with the option of a five-speed manual or hi-tech seven-speed manual/auto DSG gearbox.

There is also a super-frugal Ecomotive version, with CO2 emissions confirmed at a road tax-exempt 92g/km and an exceptional combined fuel economy figure of 80.7 mpg.

C4 set to have customisation built in

AS WITH the replacement C5 in 2008, and C3 earlier this year, Citroën continues to demonstrate a new stylish edge to match renowned technological prowess.

The latest showcase is the sculpted style of the next generation C4 due in early 2011, and tipped to provide more of the driver-pleasing characteristics of the latest C5 and C3 models.

As we now come to expect with the French marque, the C4 will also feature its own unique selling point; in this case it's the ability to adjust the colour of the driver's instrument display, select different sound alerts, finely adjust the air con and customise the sound system.

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NISSAN
SHIFT_ the way you move

Citroën dealer keeps four charities moving

by STEVELOADER

MAJOR Kent Citroën dealership Wilmoths has generously donated nine new vehicles worth £130,000 to four charities, including the Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance.

The family-owned firm's dealer principal James Wilmoth, said: "Despite the current cloudy economic times I am delighted to be able to say that we have managed to maintain an extremely successful business.

"Being a Citroën-franchised company has been instrumental in that success and, wherever possible, we like to put something back into the community in which we serve by supporting local charitable causes.

"We sincerely hope that by providing these nine Citroën vehicles at no cost, we have been able to help these organisations with their transportation needs so that they can continue to carry out their much valued work."

The charity fleet donated by Wilmoths, which has sites at Folkestone, Maidstone, Ashford, Eastbourne and Battle, comprised seven cars and two vans.

Three C3 superminis were donated to the air ambulance, a charity providing rapid response helicopter-borne ambulance cover across Kent and Sussex.

GENEROUS OFFER: James Wilmoth (third from right), with members of the air ambulance operational and fundraising teams, hands over keys to the donated Citroëns worth £130,000

Two Kent hospice charities also benefited: the Demelza Trust children's hospice, which received a C3 and Despatch van, and Heart of Kent Hospice, benefiting from two C3s.

The remaining C3 and Despatch went to the St Winifred's Hospice in Eastbourne.

The vehicles will be used to either enable staff to travel in order to carry out their work or to provide transportation for those in the care of the charities.

AN OLD-TIMER: A Ford Transit vintage 1965

Van 45 years old and still in Transit

FORD this month celebrates the 45th birthday of a van that helped launch the career of many a rock band, service countless building sites and to create the mythical 'white van man', ***writes Steve Loader***.

More than six million Transits have been built across the world since it was launched in 1965, and the Transit plant at Southampton is Ford's sole remaining vehicle plant in the UK, where it was once such a major producer that it was almost considered a British brand – a mantle now taken by Nissan, Toyota and Honda.

But at least the Transit still wears a union flag and remains Britain's best-seller in its sector, with more than 23,000 sold in the first half of 2010. It's secret of success is versatility; there are more than 600 Transit permutations, offering a version for virtually every job imaginable for a vehicle of this type.

The 45th birthday is being marked by a Sapphire special edition (from £14,995) developing more power and with longer service intervals.

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56 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI (170) SPORTSLINE, Metallic Grey with sports trim, Bose Audio Syatem, Multi-function steering wheel, Service history £11,995
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54 SAAB 93 1.9 TD VECTOR , Metallic blue with two tone tan leather trim, 6 speed, multifunction steering wheel, CD player. A well maintained car £4,495

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02 SAAB 9.3 2.0 TURBO SE, 63,000 mls, Service history, Silver with blue power hood, Full black leather trim, Air con, boot spoiler.....£4,995
R BMW Z3 1.8 , Bright red with full black leather trim, black hood, New MTEC Alloys, CD player, Service History.....£3,995

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03 JAGUAR S-TYPE 4.2V8 AUTOMATIC WITH TOUCH SCREEN SAT NAV, Ice pearl blue, Full leather trim, Upgraded alloys.....£4,995
02 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC AUTOMATIC, Full leather trim, Metallic red, 65,000 mls, Air con, Alloys. Very clean.....£3,295
X VOLVO C70 COUPE 2.5T AUTOMATIC, Black with full two- tone leather trim, Service history. A very desirable car.....£2,995

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55 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2.0 CDX, Silver 34,000 mls, Air con, E/W, C/L, P/S, ABS £2,695
52 SAAB 93 2.0 TURBO, Silver with grey trim, very clean and very well maintained, alloys ABS aircon P/S, C/L, E/W £2,695
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Sorento resorts to a more

DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

KiaSorento

KIA likes model names with an 'o'.

But why it chose to bastardise the name of a genteel Italian seaside resort to find a moniker for its chunkiest model is quite beyond me.

However, the second generation Sorento is at least much closer to tempting the clientele of its near namesake Sorrento, having ditched the old car's USP as the UK's cheapest proper off-roader or rugged towing vehicle.

Kia openly admits it can sell more by abandoning the 'rough, tough 4x4' sector and, as ever, has made lengthy strides in a single model generation; the new Sorento is now less poor man's Land Cruiser and more cut-price Volvo XC90, complete with seven seats and loads of kit from £23,245.

Actually, you can buy it cheaper (£21,455), but that's a five-seater and front-wheel drive only entry model with a pointless 2.4-litre 172bhp petrol engine that makes the car slower and thirstier than the 2.2-litre 194bhp diesel, which is the must buy for £1,800 extra.

Instead of being squarely in the moribund 'proper 4x4' sector, the Sorento now straddles the SUV (sports utility vehicle) and MPV sectors – yes, Kia would love me to use the crossover label that is the market buzzword at the moment.

It could not differ more from its predecessor; the classic 'body on ladder frame' used to maintain the rigidity of off-roaders in rough terrain has made way for a one-piece body akin to a standard car.

It means the newcomer is lighter, more stylish and far better on-road. It is also available with an economical front-wheel drive only option and now benefits from Kia's universal seven-year/100,000-mile warranty.

The 4x4 versions, starting at just £24,495, can still clobber some fairly dodgy terrain too – as I proved at the launch earlier this year.

And now, after a whole week with the car, I like it even more.

The diesel can sound a little gruff, but it has plenty of low-down urge to propel this big car in busy traffic while making it a classy and economical cruiser averaging around 40mpg in manual or auto form – both six-speeders.

The car's height and bulk are controlled well when driven with spirit too, though I see too many people driving such juggernauts at speed without a care for others.

Kia's increasing mastery of decent interiors at value prices is also evident.

This model is not only a huge improvement there over the 2003-9 model, but a decent stab at dearer rivals.

However, the test car's silver-coloured plastic highlights already showed some scuffing, which does not bode well for how they might look in a year's time.

The cabin is huge and the airiness was enhanced by the two-part panoramic sun roof – with electric opening/tilt on the front section – that comes as standard on our £30,005 KX-3 4x4 flagship model.

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100 km) for the Picanto range are: Urban: 38.7 (7.3) - 49.6 (5.7), Extra Urban: 57.6 (4.9) - 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 48.7 (5.8) - 58.8 (4.8). C02 emissions are 137 - 114 g/km, for the Kia Rio range are: Urban: 30.7 (9.2) - 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban: 50.4 (5.6) - 68.9 (4.1), Combined: 40.4 (7.0) - 62.8 (4.5). C02 emissions are 165 - 119 g/km, for the Kia Soul range are: Urban: 35.3 (8.0) - 44.8 (6.3), Extra Urban: 48.7 (5.8) - 61.4 (4.6), Combined: 42.8 (6.6) - 54.3 (5.2). C02 emissions are 156 - 137 g/km, for the Kia Venga range are: Urban: 31.4 (9.0) - 54.3 (5.2), Extra Urban: 48.7 (5.8) - 70.6 (4.0), Combined: 40.4 (7.0) - 62.8 (4.5). C02 emissions are 164 - 117 g/km, for the cee'd 5-door are: Urban: 34.0 (8.3) - 60.1 (4.7), Extra Urban: 49.6 (5.7) - 72.4 (3.9), Combined: 42.8 (6.6) - 67.3 (4.2). C02 emissions are 158 - 110 g/km. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. See your local dealer or visit www.kia.co.uk for full warranty terms and conditions. Price correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Models shown are 1.0 Picanto 1 @ £5,395 On The Road (OTR) including £1,500 trade in allowance, 1.4 Rio 1 @ £6,395 On The Road (OTR) including £1,500 trade in allowance, 1.6 Soul 1 @ £9,500 On The Road (OTR) including £2,000 trade in allowance, 1.4 Venga 1 @ £9,495 On The Road (OTR) including £2,000 trade in allowance, 1.4 cee'd 1 @ £9,995 On The Road (OTR) including £2,600 trade in allowance. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Metallic / mica paint is available for an extra £395 charge. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01 July 2010 and 30 September 2010. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms and conditions apply - please see your local dealer for full details. 43375

mainstream appeal

The rear two rows of seats are easily managed for whatever mix of seating and cargo is required, with good access to the rear most pair via the nearside.

I was impressed too that second row seats rake so that passengers can snooze on long journeys.

All seven passengers have access to decent stowage and, despite my reluctance to dub this a crossover, the new Sorento really does do the MPV duties rather well – as an outing of three adults and four kids proved.

Of course, the car's biggest negative is the badge; there will still be those brand snobs who crave something with more status, but if you need a big and versatile wagon like this and intend to keep it for more than three years, why spend more and settle for a piffling warranty, too?

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DrivingPortfolio

KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRDI KX-3 4WD AUTO £16,450

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★
Road tax	£425/year
Best rival	Hyundai Santa Fe

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the penny-pinching details on the interior finish, but fully expect Kia to put this right

NOT SURE: many ideal buyers can overlook the 'downmarket badge'

REALLY LIKE: how Kia has read the market and produced a potentially much bigger seller this time

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ALFA ROMEO

147, T-spark, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cruise control immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, silver, 42700 miles, £5800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, T-spark, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cruise control immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer silver, 42700 miles, £5800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

147, T-spark, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cruise control immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, silver, 42700 miles, £5800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

156, JTD 16v Multijet Lusso, 2005, metallic stromboli grey, 39450 miles, £5562, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

156, JTD 16v Multijet Lusso, 2005, metallic stromboli grey, 39450 miles, £5562, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, JTDM, 2008, alloy wheels cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser trip computer isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 32782 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16v, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags traction control remote central locking, 27951 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16v, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags remote central locking, over 5000 vehicles in group s, 27951 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, JTDM, 2008, abs brakes alloy black, 32782 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, JTDM, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels cruise control drivers airbag black, 32782 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, 1.4 SE, 2001, abs brakes alloy wheels electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, silver, 70059 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A2, 1.4 SE, 2001, abs brakes alloy wheels electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, silver, 70059 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDi 170 QUATTRO, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel trip computer remote central locking, meteor grey, 23009 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, 7849079, power steering, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, rcloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, radio cassette, blue, 11800 miles, £6495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, 7901079, power steering, abs, electric front windows, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, cloth upholstery, twin air bags, blue, 25900 miles, £5995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, 7978079, power steering, central locking, abs, radio cassette, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, blue, 14000 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDI 600LX With Side Loading Door, km57uhc, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, electric windows, cd player, radio, side load door, white, 33000 miles, £4495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaaa, cd player, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, fn04zvv, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power hand wash facilities. white, 0 miles, £8995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, side load door, cd player, lectric standby available if required, white, 27000 miles, £7595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, ld59ees, satellite navigation, immobiliser, electric mirrors, electric windows, abs, air bag, bluetooth, cd player, brand new. immediate delivery, white, 1 miles, £11595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 625 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, mv58zhn, dual passenger seat, side load door, cd player, abs, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, grp lined. hubbard fridge. electric stanby. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 12000 miles, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 MULTISPACE DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 14986 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, blue, 17398 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDI VTR, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel tremote audio controls, gold metallic, 4000 miles, £10495, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 MULTISPACE DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 14986 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 MULTISPACE DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 14986 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

MATERIA, 16v 5dr, fe09tsu, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, power steering, air conditioning, cloth upholstery, sun visors with mirrors, remote fuel flap release, body colour tailgate handle, internal chrome door handles, body colour door handles,£9995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

SIRION, SE 5dr, yt08nng, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, power steering, air conditioning, lenses, blue, 13000 miles, £7995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

FIAT

GRANDE PUNTO, 2006, cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, astral blue, 34399 miles, £4500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 19000 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 20426 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 28000 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player climate control electric windows immobiliser metallic paint trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 27670 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2006, red, 40000 miles, £4995, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, red, 29000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic new wave blue, 8900 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 10000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver, 15433 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning bluetooth car kit cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, jungle grey, 22146 miles, £7500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 20422 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 5, lx07kfp, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering remote central locking trip computer, tango red, 22000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, eu02fyv, insurance group 6 alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser power steering radio/cassette sunroof trip computer 3 owners service history, aquafrost green, 35000 miles, £2783, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ea02vpz, insurance group 6 alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag immobiliser power steering radio/cd trip computer 2 owners, ink blue, 57000 miles, £2483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking trip computer, amethyst, 2000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ce56erk, insurance group 5 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body immobiliser leather seats radio/cd remote central locking trip computer 1 owner history, panther black, 16000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, abs alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers climate control immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel service history, panther black, 24000 miles, £9483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, av08uas, insurance group 5 abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrorstechnology pack, panther black, 10000 miles, £7000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, gn52lzp, insurance group 3 audio remote control body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment history, moondust silver, 62000 miles, £3483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, ap58axn, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height 1 owner service history, moondust silver, 9000 miles, £8000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ln56xav, insurance group 3 abs body coloured bumpers drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering remote central locking 2 owners history, amethyst, 21000 miles, £5283, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, yg57sju, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows trip computer, ocean blue, 13000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, gk08vev, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking trip computer 1 owner service history, ocean blue, 22000 miles, £6483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ml51skf, insurance group 6 alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats height immobiliser power steering radio/cassette sunroof trip computer service history, moondust silver, 36000 miles, £2683, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, gf05ybx, insurance group 3 abs air conditioning alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer 1 owner, moondust, 36000 miles, £5000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, yb08zyd, insurance group 5 abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front , 11000 miles, £6483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ea02vsx, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment 2 owners service history, neptune green, 52000 miles, £3683, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ce57veh, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking 1 owner service history, tango red, 15000 miles, £6483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Titanium, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tinted glass trip computer multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls dab radio, avalon, 10143 miles, £14080, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 Zetec TDCi, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted immobiliser white grape, 61304 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 115 Zetec (Euro 4), 2006, non standard colour, 50271 miles, £17997, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 Zetec TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights power steering traction control trip computer remote quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, thunder grey, 15753 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 Zetec TDCi 6 Speed, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player cruise control diesel power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, moondust silver, 15214 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 Zetec TDCi 6 Speed, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, moondust silver, 11844 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, ZETEC, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking, grey, 46421 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TITAINIUM X, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, black, 43625 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, Zetec, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, silver, 43699 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, Zetec tdci, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, grey, 47631 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 TDCi 125ps ZETEC, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, sea grey, 41881 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Linear, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 2006 06 Reg , 70,763 miles, Metallic BLUE, MOT-04-2011, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Folding rear seats, Radio/CD, Alloy wheels, Full Service History, Immobiliser, Cloth upholstery, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Remote central locking, Alarm, Traction control, PAS, Trip computer, Height adjustable drivers seat, Anti theft system, Child locks. Bluetooth phone connection....... **£6,295**

SOLD

SAAB 9-5 2.3 HOT Aero, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 2002 52 Reg , 140,700 miles, Metallic BLUE, 3 Owners. Leather seat trim, ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, Body kit, CD, Central locking, Climate Control, Colour coding - Body, Computer, Cruise control, Driver airbag, Electric mirrors, Electric windows, Electric sunroof, Front armrest, Leather seats, Immobiliser, Metallic paintwork, Park distance control, Part Service History, Remote locking, Roof rails, Radio/Cassette, Radio/CD, Sports seats, Remote central locking, Rear electric windows, Heated door mirrors, Audio remote control, Alarm, Trip computer.. **£4,195**

SAAB 9-3 2.0T, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2000 W Reg, 70,471 miles, Metallic RED, 2 Owners. Central locking, Trip computer, Cloth upholstery, Part Service History, CD, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, PAS, Radio/Cassette, Air conditioning, Radio, Service indicator....... **£2,495**

SAAB 9-3 2.0i, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 1998 R Reg, 66,678 miles, Black, 1 Owner. Rear wiper, Trip computer, Cloth upholstery, Immobiliser, Part Service History, Remote locking, Drivers airbag, ABS, Adjustable seats, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, CD, Central locking, Child locks, Computer, Metallic paintwork, Radio, Side airbags, Steel wheels, Sunroof, Tinted glass, Wheel trims....... **£1,895**

CITROEN Xsara 1.4i Forte , 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2000 W Reg , 38,000 miles, Metallic SILVER, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Rear wiper, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Head restraints, Side airbags, Multi function steering wheel, Part Service History, Front electric windows, Cloth upholstery, Electric door mirrors, Body coloured bumpers, Central locking, Radio/Cassette, PAS, Metallic paintwork, Audio remote control. Insurance Group:6....... **£1,795**

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HONDA

V, VTEC 5dr, air conditioning, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, rear spoiler, cd player, radio, abs, adjustable steering column, powered folding mirrors, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, 4x4, blue, 21000 miles, £6495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

JAZZ, Dsi SE 5dr, 129314, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, air conditioning, electric front windows, electric windows, cd player, colour coded body, pollen filter, passenger seat back pocket, rear speakers, front speakers, boot lamp, body colour bumpers, side impact blue, 11000 miles, £8995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

JAZZ, EX, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels central locking climate control cruise control electric windows front fog lights metallic paintsingle cd player remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, red, 6805 miles, £11000, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4 Sport, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid remote central locking, silver, 12123 miles, £9000, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4EX I SHIFT, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering panoramic sunroof, deep sapphire blue, 6000 miles, £13000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4SE AUTO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors, sirius blue, 19000 miles, £8000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history metallic paint, silver, 26500 miles, £5800, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

JAZZ, S, 2006, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags isofix child seat points, black, 14600 miles, £6495, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4SE Auto, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors, sirius blue, 28000 miles, £8000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

JAZZ, SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full trip computer twin airbags isofix child seat points blind spot monitor, silver, 11100 miles, £7495, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

JAZZ, SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player single cd player split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey, 21000 miles, £8000, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4SE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors, cool rose met, 22996 miles, £8000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4S, 2002, abs brakes central locking full service history immobiliser, blue, 43000 miles, £4000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

JAZZ, SE DSI, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking sun roof remote central locking remote audio controls, green, 49000 miles, £5000, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

JAZZ, SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels full service history remote audio controls, storm silver, 25100 miles, £7495, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

JAZZ, Sport, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control electric windows multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 19476 miles, £8500, Tunbridge Wells, 08448 759297 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4SE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows black, 8500 miles, £9000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

JAZZ, i-DSi SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels immobiliser trip computer remote central locking, red, 65396 miles, £4801, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, S 1.3, 2006, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering tinted glass remote central locking, blue, 22000 miles, £6080, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, S, 2006, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags isofix child seat points, black, 14600 miles, £6495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4SE AUTO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors, sirius blue, 28000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer twin airbags isofix child seat points blind spot monitor, silver, 11100 miles, £7495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4 i-DSi SE -7, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering reverse parking aid remote central locking, green, 17849 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

Jazz, EX, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels central locking climate control power steering single cd player remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, red, 6805 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4EX I SHIFT, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering panoramic sunroof, deep sapphire blue, 6000 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4 Sport, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid remote central locking, silver, 12123 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4SE AUTO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors, sirius blue, 19000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MAZDA

2, 1.4 TS, 2004, red, 5817 miles, £4500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, Capella, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 40000 miles, £4300, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint mp3 player power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, crystal white, 20337 miles, £9500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, 1.3 TS 3 Door, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser mp3 player multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, black, 9355 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, 1.4, 2008, red, 50 miles, £11800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £13100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, 1.4, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £13200, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, TS2, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, aurora, 13888 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, TS2, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 11000 miles, £7750, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, TS2, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser power fold mirrors power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote audio controls, classic red, 9398 miles, £7900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MERCEDES

C-CLASS, C320 CDI Sport Auto, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors satellite navigation, grey, 25000 miles, £23000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, avantgrande, 2007, 1.8, 30000 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C180 Classic, 2002, abs brakes central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer remote audio controls, black, 67000 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C240 Avantgarde SE Auto, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 9479 miles, £10500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C320 CDI Sport Auto, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking cruise control electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors satellite navigation, grey, 25000 miles, £23000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C200K AVANTGARDE, 2003, blue, 48504 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C200K AVANTGARDE, 2003, blue, 48504 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, avantgrande, 2007, 1.8, 30000 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C180 Elegance, 2001, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player remote audio controls, gold, 16471 miles, £7080, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C180 Classic, 2002, abs brakes central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer remote audio controls, black, 67000 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C240 Avantgarde SE Auto, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking silver, 9479 miles, £10500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, avantgrande, 2007, 1.8, 30000 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C180 Classic, 2002, abs brakes central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer remote audio controls, black, 67000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C240 Avantgarde SE Auto, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 9479 miles, £10500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C180 Elegance, 2001, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer front parking sensors remote central locking remote audio controls, gold, 16471 miles, £7080, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, C320 CDI Sport Auto, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking cruise control electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors satellite navigation, grey, 25000 miles, £23000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

207, S 5dr, 7616079, power steering, air conditioning, electric front windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, abs, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, sports seats, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, twin air bags, curtain airbags, black, 36500 miles, £5995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

207, GT Coupe Cabriolet leather trim, gr07foh, air conditioning, climate control, full leather, remote alarm, remote central locking, power steering, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, cd player, radio, parking sensor, 17'' alloys, full grey leather, rear parking sensors, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, neysha blue metallic, 10000 miles, £10995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 16v SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 28480 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 110 GT DIESEL 3DR, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, blue met, 28000 miles, £8000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 16v SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 28480 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 URBAN, 2007, abs brakes electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, silver, 9235 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 14112 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 31000 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, S (AC), 2007, air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser blue, 9590 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 110 GT DIESEL 3DR, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cmetallic paint, blue met, 28000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 1.6 16v SPORT, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser red, 34609 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 16v SPORT, 2007, air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser over 5000 cars in group stock, 27113 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic black, 8100 miles, £6995, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 110 GT DIESEL 3DR, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, blue met, 28000 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 SPORT, 2009, tbc, 1744 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic black, 8100 miles, £6995, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 16v SPORT, 2007, air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser over 5000 cars in group stock, 27113 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 14112 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 URBAN, 2007, abs brakes electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, silver, 9235 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 31000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, 1.6 16v SPORT, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 34609 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, S (AC), 2007, air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, blue, 9590 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 SPORT, 2009, tbc, 1744 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic black, 8100 miles, £6995, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 16v SPORT, 2007, air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser over 5000 cars in group stock, 27113 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 URBAN, 2007, abs brakes electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, silver, 9235 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 14112 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 31000 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 16v SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 28480 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

207, 110 GT DIESEL 3DR, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, blue met, 28000 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ROVER

45, TD, 2000, abs brakes drivers airbag immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer, green, 40500 miles, £3165, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

45, TD, 2000, abs brakes drivers airbag immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer, green, 40500 miles, £3165, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

45, TD, 2000, abs brakes drivers airbag immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer, green, 40500 miles, £3165, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

45, Impression S 3 5dr, lv03uen, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, privacy glass, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, alloy wheels, red, 43000 miles, £2995, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

75, Club SE, 7793079, air conditioning, climate control, power steering, central locking, alarm, abs, twin air bags, front fog lamps, rear headrests, radio cassette, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric windows, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, silver, 64000 miles, £2995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

75, Connoissuer, 2000, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking cruise control immobiliser power steering trip computer, gold, 99000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

75, CDTI Contemporary, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 65000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

75, CDTI Contemporary, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 65000 miles, £5500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

75, Connoissuer, 2000, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking cruise control immobiliser power steering trip computer, gold, 99000 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

75, CDTI Contemporary, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 65000 miles, £5500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

75, Connoissuer, 2000, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking cruise control immobiliser power steering trip computer, gold, 99000 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, Vector, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags deactivation switch remote central locking, red, 61500 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

9-3, 2.0T LINEAR, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint traction control remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 27420 miles, £9500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.8T VECTOR, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission climate control cruise control electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 5896 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

9-3, 2.0T LINEAR, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint traction control remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 27420 miles, £9500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.8T VECTOR, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission climate control cruise control electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 5896 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

9-3, Vector, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior single sports seats trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, red, 61500 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.8T VECTOR, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission climate control cruise control immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote remote audio controls, blue, 5896 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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2008 Volkswagen Passat 2.0 TDi
SE Saloon, Grey, Turbo Diesel, 6 Speed Manual, 69000 miles
£9,995

2008 Ford Mondeo 2.0 Edge
140 TDCi Estate, Tango Red, Turbo Diesel, 67000 miles
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CAR LISTING

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2003 Vauxhall Astra Turbo 16v Convertible, Blue, 5 Speed Manual, 31000 miles £10,995
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2005 BMW 320d 2.0 ES Saloon, Grey, Turbo Diesel, 6 Speed manual, 94000 miles £8,695
2001 Mercedes-Benz ML320 CDi Estate, Aluminium Silver, Turbo Diesel, Automatic £8,495
2008 Ford Focus 1.8 Style TDCi 5dr Hatchback, Aluminium Silver, 5 Speed manual, 60000 miles ...£8,295
2005 BMW 318ci 2.0 Sport 'M SPORT' Coupe, Aluminium Silver, Turbo, 5 speed manual, 77000 miles £8,295
2007 Mazda 6 TS 2.0 D Estate, Aluminium Silver, Turbo Diesel, 6 speed manual, 65000 miles £7,995
2007 Seat Leon 1.9 TDi Reference TDi 5dr hatchback, Black, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 68000 miles £7,995
2007 Ford Focus 1.8 Style TDCi, 5dr, Hatchback, Blue, Turbo Diesel, 5 Speed manual, 47000 miles ..£7,695
2007 Ford Focus 1.8 Style TDCi, 5dr, Hatchback, Blue, Turbo Diesel, 5 Speed manual, 44000 miles ..£7,695
2004 Honda CR-V 2.0 I-VTEC Executive Estate, Red, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 79000 miles £6,995
2007 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi estate, Blue, Turbo Diesel, 5 Speed manual, 54000 miles £6,995
2007 Peugeot 307 1.6 SW S HDi Estate, Red, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 68000 miles £6,995
2007 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 Life CDTi 5dr hatchback, Black, Turbo Diesel, Manual, 48000 miles £6,695
2007 Mazda 6 TS2 D Estate, Grey, Turbo Diesel, 6 speed manual, 102000 £6,495
2007 Ford Focus 1.8 LX TDCi Estate, Red, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 73000 miles £6,495
2007 Ford Mondeo LX TDCi Estate, Aluminium Silver, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 83000 miles £5,995
2007 Ford Mondeo 2.0 LX TDCi 5dr Hatchback, Grey, Turbo Diesel, 6 speed manual, 71000 miles £5,995
2007 Ford Mondeo LX TDCi 5dr Hatchback, Black, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 68000 miles £5,995
2004 Peugeot 407 SW Executive Estate, Maroon, Turbo, Automatic, 67000 miles £5,695
2007 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Style TDCi 5dr Hatchback, Green, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 55000 .....£5,695
2003 Volkswagen Sharan 1.9 Sport TDi Estate, Blue, Turbo Diesel, 6 speed manual £5,495
2002 Volkswagen Golf Avantgarde Convertible, Aluminium Silver, Petrol, 5 Speed manual, 53000 miles £5,495
2004 Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 Elegance Dti 16v, 7 seater MPV, Burgundy, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 71000 miles £5,295
2003 Jaguar X-Type V6 SE Saloon, Beige Buff, Petrol, Automatic, 88000 miles £4,995
2007 Ford Focus 1.8 LX TDCi Estate, Blue, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual £4,995
2002 Peugeot 2006 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S, Blue, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 59222 miles £4,995
2007 Ford KA 1.3 Style Cloth 3dr Hatchback, White, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 37000 miles £4,695
2005 vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 16v Twinport 5dr hatchback, Aluminium Silver, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 80000 miles £4,495
2002 Toyota Celica 1.8 VVT-I 3dr hatchback, Blue, Petrol, 6 speed manual, 82000 miles £4,295
2002 Ford Mondeo Zetec-S V6 24v 5dr hatchback, Green, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 78000 miles £3,695
2004 Ford KA 1.3 Collection 3dr Hatchback, Black, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 35000 miles £3,695
2004 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 Life 16v 5dr Hatchback, Aluminium Silver, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 96000 miles £3,695
2002 Alfa Romeo 156 1.6 T-Spark Turismo Sportwagen Estate, Aluminium Silver, Petrol, 5 speed manual, 63000 miles £2,995

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2007 Peugeot Boxer 2.2 330 L1h1 SWB Panel Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 51000 miles ....£6,695 +vat
2007 Ford transit 2.2 T280 SWB Lr Pv 85 Panel Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manua ....£6,695 +vat
2007 Volkswagen Transporter T28 SWB Pbv Pv 84 TDi, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 117000 miles ....£5,995 +vat
2007 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Club van, White, Turbo Diesel, 6 speed manual, 68000 miles ...£5,995 +vat
2007 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi Club Ac Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 6 speed manual, 90000 miles .£5695 +vat
2007 Ford Transit Connect TDCi T230 LX LWB 90 Panel, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 97000 ....£5,695 +vat
2008 Volkswagen Caddy 2.0 C20 SDi Van, White, Diesel, 5 speed manual, 87000 miles .....£5,495 +vat
2007 Vauxhall Astravan 1.3 CDTi Club Van, White, Turbo Diesle, 5 speed manual, 70000 miles .£5,495 +vat
2007 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Club Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 6 speed manual, 61000 miles ...£5,495 +vat
2007 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Club Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 6 speed manual, 60000 miles ...£5,495 +vat
2007 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 Club CDTi Estate, Aluminium Silver, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual ...£5,495 +vat
2007 Peugeot Expert 1.9D 800 70 panel Van, White, Diesel, 5 speed manual, 60000 miles ....£5,495 +vat
2007 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Club Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 61000 miles ...£5,295 +vat
2008 Volkswagen Caddy 2.0 C20 SDi Van, White, Diesel, 5 speed manual .....£5,295 +vat
2006 Volkswagen caddy 1.9 C20 TDi SWB Van, Aluminium Silver, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 92000 miles .....£4,995 +vat
2007 Peugeot Partner 1.9 LX 600 D Van, White, Diesel, 5 speed manual, 30000 miles .....£4,495 +vat
2006 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi Envoy van, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 29000 miles ..£4,495 +vat
2007 Vauxhall Combo 1.3 CDTi 1700 Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 60000 miles .£4,495 +vat
2007 Peugeot Partner 1.9 Di 600 L SWB Cdv Van, White, Turbo Diesel, 5 speed manual, 75000 miles ....£4,295 +vat

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£8,695

2002 Volkswagen Golf Avantgarde
Convertible, Aluminium Silver, Petrol, 5 Speed manual, 53000 miles
£5,495

2007 Ford Focus 1.8 Style TDCi, 5dr,
Hatchback, Blue, Turbo Diesel, 5 Speed manual, 47000 miles
£7,695

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Blue, Turbo Diesel, 5 Speed manual, 54000 miles
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And we are already starting to see all-new models that cater for these growing consumer concerns, while still guaranteeing some driving pleasure.

For instance, the new Peugeot RCZ Coupe (main picture) is as fast and lively as its sleek lines suggest, but you will look in vain for a fire-breathing engine under that low slung bonnet; the car uses relatively small, high-efficiency engines and low weight to deliver coupé performance and agility. And when an all-wheel drive performance flagship eventually joins the range, it will be a hybrid with a conventional engine driving the front wheels, while the rear pair get electric power.

If you still doubt the trend, then check out Alfa Romeo's slippery looking Giulietta (pictured right), just launched in celebration of the sporty Italian marque's 100th anniversary, while also reviving one of the most famous model names in Alfa history.

The newcomer delivers all the handling and liveliness with which Alfa Romeo is associated and yet the powertrains – diesel and petrol – also offer low fuel consumption and emissions versus fine performance.

• ***For more on 60 reg trends and buying tips, see inside.***

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Model shown is Leon FR 2.0 TDI 170PS at £19,750 RRP. Retail sales only at participating dealers, not available with any other offer. Selected 2010 model year UK available stock only. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.
Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Leon in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 26.4 (10.7) - 60.1 (4.7); extra-urban 42.8 (6.6) - 83.1 (3.4); combined 34.9 (8.1) - 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 emissions 99 - 190 g/km.

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LEANER AND GREENER BRANDING: The Skoda Fabia Greenline and VW's Golf BlueMotion are leading the way of the current eco-friendly cars being made… but they don't come cheap

Electric? Not just yet

by **STEVE LOADER**

CARMAKERS deserve credit for some leaner and meaner models in response to global warming, new legislation and volatile fuel prices.

It normally takes five to seven years to bring a new car to the market, so 'new generation' cars we all crave simply cannot happen overnight.

But manufacturers are understandably reluctant to sideline the internal combustion engine in favour of expensive research and development of new technologies.

Nevertheless, new road tax bandings, ranging from zero to £950 a year for gas guzzling limos or 4x4s, are changing our car buying habits.

Of course, anyone spending £50-100,000 on a new motor won't blink at spending nearly a grand annually on the tax disc, but most people like saving a few quid and can achieve this through the improved economy of greener cars, while incidentally doing their bit for the environment.

Longer term, electric cars appear to be the answer and there has been lots of publicity about 'plug-in' models for overnight charging at home or city centre charging points.

But battery technology has some catching up to do and the zero emissions argument is misleading; until we have zero emission power stations, electric cars simply transfer the CO2 and noxious gas output from exhaust pipe to belching chimney.

Are hybrids the answer then?

Japanese giants Toyota and Honda are ahead in this field where conventional engines are paired with electric power and batteries, but Peugeot will follow soon and other brands are set to join the club.

However, hybrids are expensive to buy and the economy at motorway speeds is no better than a frugal diesel.

And so we return to the internal combustion 'lump' where emissions are plummeting, economy is soaring and refinement is improving.

In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what a few legislative kicks up the backside have achieved.

The downsizing phenomenon is well under way too, with several new cars proving that 'small is beautiful'.

Most carmakers also now have an 'eco sub-brand' such as Vauxhall's Ecoflex, Skoda's Greenline, Seat's Ecomotive and VW's BlueMotion.

But they don't come cheap, so weigh potential long-term savings against upfront cost – if you don't cover the miles, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol models either; the higher price of diesel cars and the fuel at the pumps must be compared with new small capacity low emission/consumption petrol engines such as the turbocharged 1.4-litre units found in the VW camp, including Skoda and Seat.

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*Price shown is for Savvy 1.2 Style MT; manufacturer's list price £7995 excluding metallic which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. Finance is available to people aged 18 and over, subject to status, when purchasing a new Proton vehicle through Proton Finance Ltd. Indemnities may be required. Regular finance payments required. Excludes Motability and fleet sales. Available at participating dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers Proton Finance Ltd., registered address 116 Cockfosters Road, Barnet, EN4 0DY is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Offer ends 30th September 2010. ^Free servicing offer available at participating dealers only on Savvy 1.2 Style MT or AMT until 30th September 2010. Terms and conditions apply to all offers.

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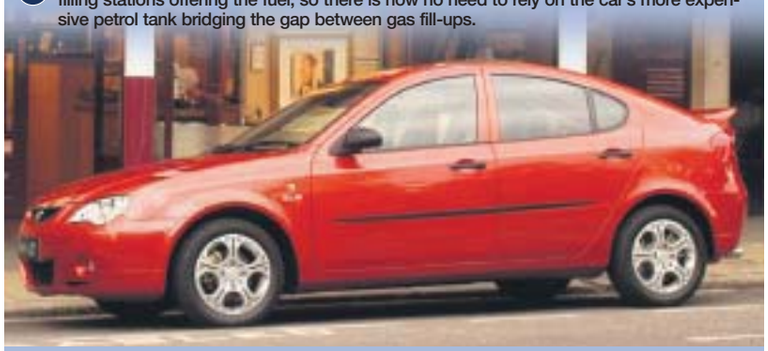
The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda Range: Urban 18.0 (15.7) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 31.0 (9.1) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined 24.6 (11.5) – 68.9 (4.3). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 299 – 107.
Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating Mazda dealers for new vehicles contracted and registered between 1 July 2010 and 30 September 2010. ^0% finance available on all Mazda models (excludes Mazda CX-7 and Mazda RX-8 R3). Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Models shown: Mazda2 1.3 5dr TS Air Con. OTR price: £10,170. Mazda6 2.2D 5dr Sport 180ps. OTR price: £ 22,795. Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS. OTR price: £15,030. All models shown (excluding RX-8 R3) feature optional metallic/mica paint (£410). On the road price includes 17.5% VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. †Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print.

DOs and DON'Ts before buying a new car

1. Don't accept the first deal on offer – be ready to haggle.
2. Don't be afraid to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts or extras.
3. Don't fall for what seems like a big bargain before you even haggle. It could be an unpopular engine or trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago – it might be just as thirsty as your old car and will depreciate badly.
4. Do pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it won't get any easier out there.
5. Don't be blinded by road tax-exempt diesel eco models – check price, running costs and green credentials and the savings over your planned ownership mileage/years and then compare against the closest standard version.
6. Do not assume that diesel will save you money – you will usually pay far more up front and the engines are generally heavier, which means more wear and tear on front tyres and mechanicals. The fuel is also dearer at the pumps, while petrol cars have become dramatically better on fuel and emissions and, in most cases, are far nicer to drive.
7. Do spare a thought for an LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) car model. LPG offers lower emissions and is roughly half the price of petrol at the pumps. There are also many more filling stations offering the fuel, so there is now no need to rely on the car's more expensive petrol tank bridging the gap between gas fill-ups.



MAKE SURE THE PRICE IS RIGHT: Malaysia's Proton offers a dual-fuel petrol and LPG version of its popular GEN-2 family hatchback and saloon models

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Škoda Range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) - 8.9 (4.1), Extra-urban 3 .2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the Škoda Range 89 – 237g/km.

by STEVELOADER

New wheel deals roll in

SCRAPPAGE may be dead, but keen new car deals live on in a much-changed motor trade.

Half of the £2,000 Government-sponsored Scrappage grant for new car buyers part-exchanging a 10 or more-year-old banger came from carmakers and dealers – some even threw in more cash to sweeten a deal.

It made even the most conservative car buyer realise that list price didn't have to mean 'final price' and it was worth haggling, especially with dealers just happy to survive the economic downturn.

Scrappage also affected the used car market, because many so-called 'gas guzzling bangers' the Government hoped to take off the road were well cared for family motors with plenty of life in them.

Lots of real bangers are still out there, because their cash-strapped owners just can't afford to trade up at all – used or new.

Meanwhile, the cars that should never have gone to the scrapper were denied a new lease of life and would-be buyers have been forced to move upwards in the used car market.

This in turn has exacerbated a chronic shortage of used cars now because fewer new cars were sold once the recession took hold.

Used car prices have soared as a result and new cars start to look better value, especially when certain carmakers are happy to 'buy' sales and market share with keen deals and low-rate finance just to keep their plants turning over.

Buyers may also be tempted because they have cash earning little in a bank account, which could drive a deal on a new car instead.

LOOKING GOOD: Grab some coupé image plus hatchback versatility with Seat's stylish Leon

STYLE ICON: Citroën's C3 Picasso is one of the most stylish and practical small MPVs on the market

FRENCH FANCY: Peugeot's new 3008 epitomises a versatile new breed of 'crossover' – part family hatch, part MPV and part SUV

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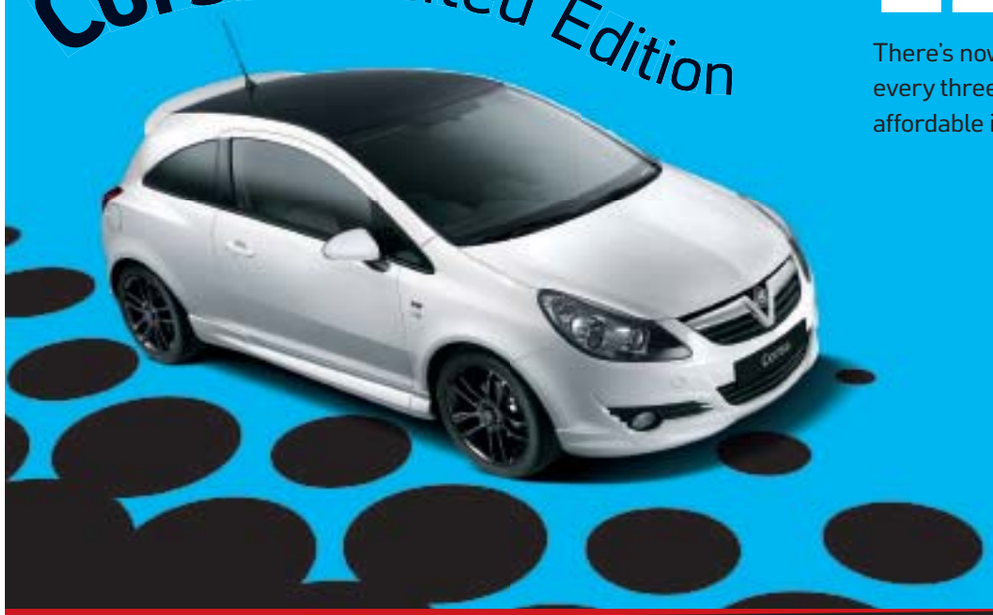

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa Limited Edition Range: urban 40.9 (6.9) – 52.3 (5.4), extra-urban 64.2 (4.4) – 76.3 (3.7), combined 53.3 (5.3) – 65.7 (4.3), CO_2 Emissions 124 – 114 g/km.

Deal available to private individuals only for orders between 07.07.10 and 30.09.10. Deals may not apply to all retailer stock and are subject to availability, correct at time of going to press. UK supplied vehicles only. For full specification and details contact your local retailer, before placing an order. Figures shown are based on a non-maintenance contract hire package for the bailment of goods over 36 months, assuming a maximum of 6,000 miles per annum. All rentals are quoted inclusive of VAT. An advance rental of £627 inc. VAT is payable, followed by 35 regular monthly rentals of £209 inc VAT. The quotation is subject to there being no changes in VAT or manufacturer list price. An excess mileage charge applies if the annual contract mileage is exceeded (4.41p per mile up to 6,000 miles and 6.38ppm 6,000 miles and above). The quotation is given subject to the vehicle being serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and the vehicle must be returned to Vauxhall Leasing in a condition commensurate with the BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age and mileage. Charges will be applied should these conditions not be met. All quotations are subject to availability, status, acceptance and agreement and guarantees may be required. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Contract hire provided by ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Contract hire is subject to status, availability and conditions. A guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over. Full terms and conditions are available upon request. Offer shown relates to Corsa 1.3 CDTi. (Vaux98309)

SPACE INVADER: Vauxhall's British-built Astra is currently number three in the national sales top ten whie the sporty, lightweight and economical Mazda2 typifies the downsizing trend

Small is beautiful

by **STEVELOADER**

DOWNSIZING continues to be the UK motor market's buzzword.

Some 20 years ago, the family saloon/company car sector was dominant and models like the Ford Mondeo and Vauxhall Vectra battled for the top spot.

Then came the rise of the family hatchback and supermini; throughout the 90s and early Noughties they had a ding-dong battle for market dominance.

However, helped by soaring fuel and insurance costs, greater environmental awareness and then by government legislation via punitive road tax on larger cars, superminis have gained the upper hand: 2009 registration gave them a 37 per cent share of the UK market – well over 40 per cent if you add in the even smaller city car segment – while family hatchbacks had to settle for the number two spot with less than 27 per cent of registrations.

More difficult to quantify though is the new trend towards 'crossovers' – cars like the Nissan Qashqai, Skoda Yeti and Peugeot 3008.

As the name implies they straddle several sectors including family hatchback, MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or people carrier and SUV (sports utility vehicle) and are hard to pigeonhole under the current classification system.

Many manufacturers have already tried to apply the sexy new crossover label to what would once have been their SUV models – especially as the 4x4/SUV sector has declined – and we can expect an industry re-appraisal of how classes are defined and counted.

This could then show a burgeoning third sector comprising the new age crossover designs.

In the meantime, registration figures from the industry's SMMT body so far this year show how superminis (S) and family hatchbacks (H) dominate the UK top 10, with only BMW's 3-Series compact executive star bucking the trend:

1) Ford Fiesta (S)
2) Ford Focus (H)
3) Vauxhall Astra (H)
4) Vauxhall Corsa (S)
5) VW Golf (H)
6) VW Polo (S)
7) Peugeot 207 (H)
8) Mini (H)
9) BMW 3-Series
10) Renault Clio (S)

Overall, the UK car market over the past year is 20 per cent up on the previous 12 months, but market watchers say this is unsustainable and expect 2010 volumes to show a marked decline.

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Giulietta

Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 26.2 – 51.4 mpg (10.8 – 5.5 l/100km); Extra Urban 48.7 – 76.4 mpg (5.8 – 3.7 l/100km); Combined 37.2 – 64.2 mpg (7.6 – 4.4 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 177 – 114 g/km. *When compared to the Alfa 147 range.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

NETWORKER supreme and Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief executive Jo James is our Big Interview this week, explaining how her organisation has become even more crucial during the downturn. And Spotlight concentrates on agribusiness, where the revitalisation of Hadlow College underlines predictions of a new golden age in farming that is driving up land values and is inspired by the need for food security and cutting food miles – produce being flown in from across the world.

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Oldest mutual favours American equity deal

By **STEVE LOADER**
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BRITAIN'S oldest building society – Kent Reliance – aims to press ahead with controversial re-structuring as a bank in order to raise new capital.

The society would cease to exist and become the Kent Reliance Provident Society Limited (KRPS) using the brands Kent Reliance, KRBS and Kent Reliance Banking Services.

The deal tabled in mid-July involves American private equity firm JC Flowers taking a £50 million/49 per cent stake in the mutual, ranked 12th nationally through its £2.2 billion assets.

The society's 180,000 members will be asked to vote at a special general meeting this autumn with a view to joining the new bank, to be launched next year and able to issue shares to generate new capital funding.

But industry watchers predict a stormy passage as KRPS will retain the mutual membership element, thereby ruling out payment of a de-mutualisation sweetener to voters.

The Financial Services Authority is not expected to interfere as there have already been mergers in a sector that, with the exception of the giant Nationwide (£190bn assets), has looked troubled since the 2007 collapse of Northern Rock. Ironically, the Rock's so-called toxic assets division announced a £349m profit this week, albeit without significantly easing its £22bn debt.

krbs.com
Kent Reliance Building Society

And it is grim reading for KRBS and others, which have found cash hard to raise for lending since Northern Rock crashed, precipitating tighter cash flow and regulation in the banking sector.

Chief executive Mike Lazenby said: "KRBS has an excellent opportunity to develop its business franchise in the market to build on the profit it was able to declare last year.

"However, recent pressure on KRBS's capital has proved challenging, particularly as building societies cannot raise capital in the way banks do.

"To meet this challenge, we have been working with advisers to produce a structure that enables new capital to be introduced, while simultaneously providing a basis which can allow our members to remain as members of a mutual organisation. We believe businesses based on mutuality have a major role to play in protecting and promoting consumer interests.

"But to play this role to the full, we now need to bring fresh capital into the business."

There has been speculation that KRBS could then facilitate Flowers' alleged ambition to create a new UK bank by hoovering up other smaller building societies. The US firm was set-up in 2001 by Christopher Flowers – a former partner with American banking and finance firm Goldman Sachs – who has already tried buying into Northern Rock, Friends Provident, and Bradford and Bingley.

KRBS has just 45 staff and while it had been one of the fastest growing UK societies, Mr Lazenby has slashed customer-facing assets.

Fourteen outlets have been cut to eight and only two are now full branches – in Chatham and Hempstead – after the 55-year-old society boss labelled traditional branches as liabilities.

He has sought profile through sponsorship instead, notably in deals with football clubs Gillingham, Charlton Athletic and Whitstable Town. Just a few years ago, the Kent society was one of the most traditional, side-stepping the demutualisation frenzy of the early 1990s when many made windfall payments to members in order to convert to, or be taken over by, banks.

KRBS is a conglomerate of several county building societies – the oldest being Kent and Canterbury, founded in 1847.

Such organisations were conceived to build houses for their members, later concentrating more on money and mortgage lending.

Piano movement is firm's real forte

ROYAL connections persuaded a Kent removals firm to invest in a new vehicle to hit the high notes.

The £80,000 18-tonne Daf truck underpins Challock-based Colin Batt Removals' speciality – moving pianos – including for Her Majesty the Queen.

With its wide and full-height tail lift, the Daf can easily manage grand pianos and even deliver one through a first-floor window.

Apart from the royal 'joanna', the firm has also handled other famous ones including Beethoven's original piano – during a Europe-wide tour in 1992 – and, more recently, the instrument that belonged to Chopin's pupil Jane Stirling, needed for a concert at Lancaster House.

Colin Batt Removals partner Tom Hathaway-Batt said: "The Chopin piano is priceless, but valued for insurance purposes at £2 million. Having moved it to Lancaster House we had to take it up three flights of stairs to the concert hall, then deliver it safely home again afterwards."

He said the new addition to the fleet was a major investment in the firm's future.

"We have been expanding steadily since the company started in 1978 and are continuing to recruit," he added.

BATT'S ENTERTAINMENT: Shelley Hathaway-Batt at a grand piano being stored by Colin Batt Removals

Comment

THANKS go to Hadlow College finance chief Mark Lumsdon-Taylor for highlighting the economic and aesthetic damage done by Kent's litter menace.

Having revived the fortunes of his college – see our Spotlight story on further education's 'comeback kid' – he has identified another debit column. For we really do face a crisis as councils look to make savings: litter and fly-tipping is bad enough now so it's bound to be much worse soon.

I'm not sure the authorities have the measure of it now anyway. Even with looming manpower cuts it seems to me it can't be too hard to ensure that litter bins are emptied properly and regularly, yet they are often full or overflowing – especially in seaside towns where they add to the seagull nuisance that greets would-be tourists.

And how much effort goes into trying to educate idiots who park up to stuff their faces with burger and chips before chucking the wrappers under the car and driving off?

While I applaud the wonderful Visit Kent tourism posters, I can't help thinking their expensive London-based ad agency (don't we have any talent like that in Kent?) should also have been put to work on clever posters and signs to head off littering that will surely greet the tourists mobilised by the glamorous campaign.

And how often do we hear of prosecutions against these fly-tippers?

Then again, a proactive approach might be better than a punitive one so, rather than wait for old lavatories, fridges and TVs – and we'll be viewing a lot of them on our roadsides as digital takes over – to be dumped, why don't councils pool resources on a hotline service allowing householders and contractors to have bulk rubbish collected and recycled properly.

Fact is, they can't even agree a uniform recycling policy at present. Some councils reject plastic recycling while others don't and there are too many other grey areas.

In short, we have a 'rubbish' approach, costing us money now and set to cost us plenty more unless we bin it and come up with something better.

STEVE LOADER, BUSINESS EDITOR

Default retirement age death a 'block on jobs'

GOVERNMENT plans to scrap the default retirement age from April 6 next year have prompted a Kent lawyer to speak up for young talent struggling to get on the jobs ladder.

Melissa Edmond, employment lawyer at Furley Page, said: "Age UK's director Michelle Mitchell has stated that 'everyone stands to win from abolishing forced retirement'.

"It's a nice thought, but I fail to see how the talented and entrepreneurial young win when they are already banging their heads against the closed doors of the labour market."

Ms Edmond argues that raising the default retirement age (DRA) would have created far fewer problems than scrapping it. Without a DRA employers will risk unfair dismissal and age discrimination claims for forcing workers to retire.

She added: "Workforce planning will be difficult, and job-blocking by more mature staff may become a problem. Employers may also find themselves tempted to withdraw or reduce benefits to staff across the workplace for fear of additional cost of providing them to the over-65s."

Employers have two choices, she said. Either stop using retirement ages, although they can complete any retirements where the employee has been notified before April 6, 2011, and where the retirement will be complete before October 1, 2011.

Or continue using a retirement age. However, when the DRA is removed, employers using retirement ages are likely to be challenged and will have to satisfy a tribunal that their retirement age is objectively justified – not easy to demonstrate, she warned.

MELISSA EDMOND: Speaking out

MP's engineering breakthrough

EARLY DOORS: Damian Green MP swings the hammer at Sunray Engineering in Ashford

DAMIAN Green got the chance to relieve some of the stress of being immigration minister by pounding a metal door with a sledge hammer. It was part of the MP's tour of Sunray Engineering, based at Kingsnorth industrial estate, in his Ashford constituency.

The company, which is celebrating 30 years in business, specialises in manufacturing metal security doors.

Mr Green's tour was part of a campaign to raise awareness of companies involved in the defence industry He was joined by Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce; and Andrew Osborne, economic development manager at Ashford council. Workers demonstrated various stages in manufacturing the doors, including the test bench where Mr Green donned protective gear and used the hammer to test a window mounted in a metal door.

He said: "It's good to see a company which is national leader working in Ashford. We need to change the image of engineering. People think of it as old fashioned, dirty and boring, when it's the very opposite. You need to be very smart to succeed in manufacturing these days."

The MP said he was pleased the firm had good relations with South Kent College and was looking to take on apprentices. "We need more young people coming into manufacturing and to ensure they get the right training," he added.

Sunray MD David Evans said the company had actually expanded during the recession because it concentrated on research and development in a specialised market.

He said: "We have a very intensive R&D programme. We are a market leader, constantly pushing the boundaries and looking for new markets."

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Bank's fund of goodwill

NATWEST has announced details of a new fund to support local charities and projects and wants customers and local people to decide who should benefit.

It follows last month's NatWest charter telling customers what they can expect from their bank. Part of the charter – based on comments from 30,000 customers – includes a commitment to support a branch's local community.

A key element in this is the creation of 380 individual funds of £5,000 available to good causes, meaning £60,000 will be invested in Kent across 12 clusters – a cluster being four to six branches. Good causes and projects can be nominated via your local branch or by logging on to natwest.com/communityfund.

Nominations will be sifted by a panel from the bank, residents, and community figures, to create a shortlist of three charities.

The community will be invited to vote for their favourite, with the most popular receiving a £3,000 grant, and two runners-up £1,000 each. NatWest's Paul Wheeler said: "By way of additional support, the bank has granted employees a day away from the office to help good causes. We hope this element of our customer charter will deliver more than 10,000 days of community volunteering in 2010."

To view, search 'Neame' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Shepherd Neame brewery boss Jonathan Neame speaks to Julie Maddocks about the highly successful Faversham company

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

ONE in four employees fail to provide a single good idea for their employers, according to a new study.

It comes after findings that one in five small businesses – those employing 10-100 people – say more than 70 per cent of revenue comes from products or services which did not exist five years ago, with many derived from bright ideas by staff.

The research, by the organisers of Fresh Business Thinking LIVE in London on September 8, comes at a time when many small firms are battling to survive and need fresh thinking and new products. Spokesman Nick James said: "In such a competitive and tough economic environment it's crucial that small businesses are being as innovative and as forward thinking as possible, and obviously employees are a key part to that innovation process.

"After all, they're the ones who are right at the heart of the company. So when staff aren't providing new ideas or contributing to the innovation side of things, it suddenly becomes very tricky for a company to increase its sales or out-gun competitors."

DOVER District Council is to continue negotiations with Bond City Ltd about development of the St James area of the port, known as the Dover Town Investment Zone (DTIZ). Councillors will now look for a final detailed report on Bond's proposals to be aired no later than November 3.

The council is keen to push the economic downturn aside to progress plans for the DTIZ following Asda's withdrawal from the scheme late last year. Cllr Frederick Scales said: "The proposed development in the St James area has a live planning consent and any new application must maintain the same standard of design and function."

KINGS Hill near West Malling has been named as the country's most successful new village in a report by a leading property agency CB Richard Ellis – Prince Charles' Poundbury development in Dorset came third.

The 800-acre Kings Hill, standing on a former Battle of Britain aerodrome, is now home to about 6,000 residents and more than 100 businesses employing 5,000 people. It includes an 18-hole golf course, cricket pitch, David Lloyd leisure centre plus other sports and leisure facilities, schools and a village centre with shops, restaurants and cafés.

ART and antiques values in Kent continue to rise, according to the latest Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) art and antiques survey.

Thirty-six per cent of surveyors reported lots in the highest bracket of £50,000 and above rose in price rather than falling over the past quarter – up from 18 per cent in the previous quarter.

In the £5,000 to £50,000 category, the figure was 25 per cent – up from 18 per cent in Q1 – but the lower end of the market (£1-5,000) saw a fall from 27 per cent in Q1 2010, to 16 per cent. The survey shows that despite uncertainty in the economy, sentiment in the Kent art and antiques market appears buoyant.

RICS South East director Amanda Gardiner said: "The results show buyers are placing a premium on the very best material often due to its relatively low availability.

"Recent aristocratic sales have highlighted this trend, revealing the investors who are willing to pay large sums for 'museum quality' items."

BIG JOB: Dartford Mayor Cllr Patrick Coleman tightens the golden bolt at Bluewater's events venue, due to open in 2011

Golden bolt marks next phase for Bluewater

BLUEWATER marked a key phase in construction of its £60 million events venue with a golden bolt ceremony attended by the Mayor of Dartford.

Cllr Patrick Coleman was welcomed by the shopping and leisure destination's general manager, Andrew Parkinson, and newly appointed venue director, Rebecca Cardozo.

The eye-catching golden bolt was placed in the first sections of the 5,200 square metre events venue's steel structure.

Mr Parkinson said: "We're very proud to see the events venue beginning to take shape. It highlights Bluewater's commitment to the community by creating jobs and providing training during the construction.

"I'm also delighted to welcome Rebecca to the team. She has a wealth of experience in the events and exhibition sector and her expertise and perspective is already adding to the team."

Ms Cardozo said: "The new venue will allow us to provide a year-round leisure experience."

Cllr Coleman said: "Bluewater has been an integral part of our community since opening 11 years ago. I'm excited to be invited to witness this important phase in construction and look forward to the events venue opening in late 2011."

Directly off Thames Walk through the Water Circus, the new development will be complemented by reconfiguring Bluewater's catering and restaurants area and cinema.

"It was designed by internationally renowned architects and exhibition experts Denton, Corker Marshall, who also designed the Stonehenge visitor centre on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire.

Online tool brings wider opportunity

THOUSANDS of business openings across Europe and beyond are now available free to Kent companies. The online Partner Finder at www.enterpriseeurope-se.eu/partners allows users to search for business and research partners, distributors, agents and suppliers across various sectors.

Opportunities range from a Swedish business looking for UK companies to establish commercial or technical agreements for an eco-friendly paint and putty removal system, to a Belgian bakery seeking help to solve its bread waste problem.

Linda Bennett, service manager at Enterprise Europe South East, which provided the new tool, said it opened a marketplace of 45 EU and non-EU countries not normally available to Kent businesses.

"Imagine you have an innovative product but you don't know how to distribute it," she said.

"Advisers will support you in developing an appropriate profile and help post the details on Partner Finder, ensuring you can source the expertise you need to bring your product to market. Or, you might be a large company looking for new products or services or seeking a solution to a development problem – you can either browse the 5,000 profiles online or search by industry sector, country of origin or by using key words."

Searches can also be broken down into technology, research and commercial opportunities and will return results marked 'offer' or 'request'. Requests include a French company looking for partners to finalise the development of a tool to analyse performances in football and other outdoor sports, while offers include an Italian university looking for help with its robot, aimed at assisting patients who have suffered neurological or orthopaedic injuries.

Ms Bennett said: "This is such an easy way to reach organisations you would otherwise have to spend a vast amount of time seeking out. Businesses are operating in a difficult climate, but this could open up new markets you never even thought about. There's nothing to lose by going online and giving it a go."

Enterprise Europe South East can also provide details of accountants, lawyers and other contacts in the relevant country.

For more information, click on www.enterpriseeurope-se.eu; or telephone 0844 725 2244.

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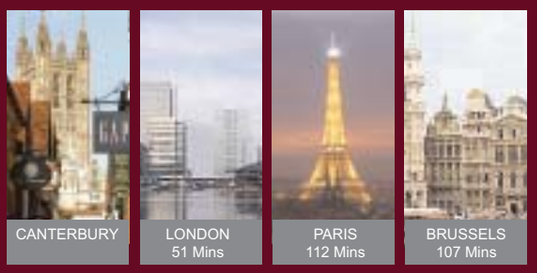

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'My Business Week …'

by Alan Reading, proprietor of Custom Marketing Resources

MONDAY – Is it really Monday again? When I started work there was a definite distinction between a Monday and a Friday and I seem to remember it being divided by a thing called a weekend. Now I had a weekend once – where did I put it?

Someone recently told me not to start the day with emails and not to answer them as they came in. "Save them all up and sort them out in one go!" he said. Can't he see that some need dealing with straight away? However, I notice he's not busy and I'm off my head.

TUESDAY – That's a noise I haven't heard for a while. It's the ancient document sender thingy; facsimile it was called.

"Please reply ASAP by fax," it says – not quite like the email gadget. I'll get my mum to send it back after some in situ fax training.

Back to the emails. Five from Nigeria telling me they are holding £25 million for me to collect – at last, I'm rich; one from America saying they are holding someone on a diplomatic passport with a suitcase of cash with my name on it (cc to CIA, MI5, FBI, etc).

What's happening to mum? She's back after 25 minutes with the piece of paper for the fax and telling me: "It just won't send the paper. It keeps coming back out of the other side of the machine." Hmmm.

WEDNESDAY – A customer wants me to check out his website, but insists it has been updated. Yes, I can see that. It says 'Designed in 1998 and last updated 1999'.

We'll get something a little more 2010 done for him.

THURSDAY – Is it Saturday yet? At least the phone slows down a bit. I still want to know why it is that when I take a nature break the doorbell always rings. There must be a microswitch under the bathmat.

Working on new branding for a client with a logo that looks more like a Chinese emblem. Five different ideas go off to my contact and already she's back saying she "doesn't like the rounded one".

Okay – that's why I did five, so some you hate, one you love. Ten minutes later, she's back again. The "rounded one" is the one all her colleagues and the boss like, so that's the one they want. Ah, a creative's life is never boring.

FRIDAY – Just dealing with a client in Africa via Skype and watching the emails mount up when the mobile rings and then, OMG, the landline chimes in, too …

Next time, I'm going to be a window cleaner.

Hard times, but

KOSmedia BUSINESS WEEK

THE BIG INTERVIEW

You need both realism and optimism to survive in business at the moment after the worst recession in decades. And it must be reassuring that business people can find both at the top of Kent's premier chamber of commerce, Kent Invicta, where chief executive JO JAMES can also add 20 years' experience to the mix. Business editor Steve Loader asked her about how the county's battered business community can best pick itself up after the recession.

JO JAMES

THAT old line: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going" would suit Kent Invicta Chamber boss Jo James.

She took over as the group's chief executive two years ago – with the recession in full swing. "People have said 'Jo, you can't go wrong – if it does, you can just blame the recession'," she laughed.

"But it was challenging to take over in a recession and, boy, has it been a steep learning curve. Then again, I have probably picked up skills I might never have come across and, once the economy picks up, will leave me better placed than before."

And she is also quick to pick up on other positives: "The Budget was okay. We can now move on, although there's that spending review in October and we all know that services will be cut, infrastructure development put on hold, and there will be redundancies.

"But let's not be negative. All these things present opportunities for someone somewhere. That's what business is good at – and that's what Kent businesses are particularly good at.

"If a public sector service is being cut, business needs to say, 'Somebody was using that service, so there's an opportunity'. I'm an optimist, but I've known businesses where someone has left through cuts, gone freelance and actually gone back into their old organisation as a contractor and ended up being better off. And that's another thing about the current climate: businesses are much more streamlined and well placed to bounce back when the upturn really starts."

This upbeat mood has carried Jo to the top of an organisation she joined as an "office hand" 20 years ago and literally helped build into a highly-respected mover and shaker in county business circles. When the then Ashford Chamber was building its new HQ at Waterbrook Avenue, opposite the Orbital Park, in the early 1990s, she grabbed the architect's shopping list of materials and set about sourcing them – for free, if possible.

She recalled: "Businesses were very supportive by and large, though the ones you expected to be most generous actually weren't. I remember a well known DIY store donating a £50 box of tiles, while a family business in Bethersden donated a lovely handmade kitchen at cost.

"That's what I like about this centre, though, it was built with a lot of input from the business community and for the business community."

The chamber moved in in 1994 and later took over the Maidstone and Canterbury (2005 and 2006) chambers and assumed the more wide-ranging title of Kent Invicta, but initially shared its new building – still known as Ashford Business Point – with the local enterprise agency to form what former trade and industry secretary Michael Heseltine had envisaged as business 'one-stop shops'.

The Ashford set-up failed in its pitch for cash to become one of Tarzan's official business hubs, but Jo recalled fondly how local businesses and councils rode to the rescue. She paints an interesting déjà vu of how

JO JAMES'S CV

- 1981 – "After various office jobs, I took on my most important role to date – had my two children and enjoyed a few years as a stay-at-home mum."
- 1986 – "Ran a play school in Ashford – after four years my ears couldn't take any more so I went back to the sanctuary of an office."
- 1990 – "Took a job with the chamber and celebrated my 20th anniversary on July 23."

YOUNG GUNS: Jo James with members of an Invicta Young Chamber team of would-be entrepreneurs at Maplesden Noakes School, in Maidstone

Jo has great expectations

Heseltine's proposals had sought to strip away the tangle of public and private sector bodies then offering business advice; one resembling the framework that the new coalition Government is also committed to tearing down through abolition of the regional development agencies and BusinessLink.

"The whole landscape will change again," said Jo. "We are going to get local enterprise partnerships instead, but nobody knows what a LEP is going to look like, will do, or the geographical area it will cover."

Faced with such confusion, she added: "All you can do as an organisation is ensure that you are one of the first in there and try to influence what is going on.

"I feel that LEPs are a real opportunity, but let's not look at how the landscape was and let's ask business what it wants to see."

Naturally, she feels Kent Invicta can have a major role in this as the county's largest chamber and with a board of 12 who can all field expertise in key sectors, feeding comment up to the regional chamber comprising chief executives like Jo, and then to the national chamber with input to ministers.

But she is also keen for the chamber to play its own part: "I want us to engage with and offer services to non-member businesses as well as members."

The chamber was, for instance, offering free business start-up advice for people who might have been made redundant and wanted to try going it alone. The chamber also had a vast array of other free and paid for services – members get preferential rates. "But chambers are also very good at sharing and we need to further that culture of sharing," she added.

"There is so much expertise out there and there's nothing like listening to a real-life business scenario from someone who has lived and breathed what you are now going through. If we are going to get through this [downturn] we have to pool resources and share experience. Don't view your competitor with suspicion – there have to be areas of common ground. If you have never spoken to your competitor, you are not going to hear them say 'I've got this big order that can't handle because I laid too many people off in the recession – why don't we share it?'."

She also backs the message that Britain must become a manufacturer and exporter once more – the chamber now has an export documentation licence to help would-be exporters with paperwork.

"We used to be a country that made things," she said. "But we don't seem to make things any more. Yet there are still hundreds of manufacturing businesses here and many have the potential to export. It is also probably easier to get stuff from here over to the other side of the Channel than it is to send them out of the county. Of course, there are language and other differences, and the psychological barrier of the Channel itself, but there are people there to help." And while it was fashionable to deride the former Labour government's efforts on the business front, she believes the UKTI (UK Trade and Investment) body founded in 1999 offered good services to would-be exporters: "Kent is also in good shape to respond to the export drive, because we don't have those large businesses that are slimming or closing down after being hit by the recession – we're flexible," she said.

"Part of our strategy as a chamber over the next three years is to actually help identify who has export potential and we are looking to build a series of internationalisation events.

"But people must do their export homework and ask, 'What do I need to do to my product, is it right for the marketplace, and is the price right?'."

And she is confident, too, that Kent is already doing its bit for exports through so much of the intellectual property that fuels the exports of firms based elsewhere in the country. "We don't measure that or put it over that well, but we have many small manufacturers who won't set the world on fire as exporters, but they are part of a bigger product," she said.

Looking inwards again, she was also proud of the chamber's partnership in Backing Kent Business, which also includes the county council, other chambers, Institute of Directors, Federation of Small Businesses and county universities. As chairwoman she helped announce the new group's first major initiative, the Kent Wind Energy database/website, launched to enable county businesses to register interest in work on the London Array wind farm being built off the Kent coast.

"We want to get much of that business into Kent," she said. "Yes, there will be specialists from outside who will have to come in, but it is a huge project and local businesses can register their details and, in turn, be identified as potential suppliers."

BRIGHT AND BREEZY: Jo with Cllr Kevin Lynes at the launch of the Backing Kent Business website designed to help firms chase work with the London Array offshore wind farm

JO'S TOP TIPS

- **Be ready to form partnership ventures – "There is the realisation that the biggest threat comes not from the firm next door, but from the other side of the world."**
- Look in the opposite direction – "Too many Kent firms fail to recognise that the Continent is a market closer to home than much of the UK, and ignore their export potential."
- **The time is right for export – "The pound is weak and the chamber has the expertise and contacts to help people adapt and market their products. I'm always amazed by what help we can call upon within the membership and by how far people will go to deliver that help."**
- You don't have to be a chamber member, just contact us – "We want to serve everyone in the business community."

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DOCUMENT and print technology supplier Balreed Digitec has appointed Steve Algeo, pictured above, as group finance director.

Algeo joins from Ikon Office Solutions and brings more than 11 years' experience in the sector. He will be based at Balreed's new head office in Maidstone's 20/20 Business Park.

He said: "The quality and enthusiasm of the team has enabled Balreed to grow impressively in recent years. I'm looking forward to helping accelerate that growth and helping Ballreed become recognised as the first choice independent provider for print and document services."

Balreed Digitec was set up in 1977.

Web workshop shows way on carbon savings

FIRMS from across the county learned how to measure and reduce their carbon footprint during the South East Business Carbon Hub's first online workshop, ***writes Steve Loader***.

The service, funded by Kent County Council and the South East Regional Development Competitiveness Programme 2007-13, helps small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) save money and improve their environmental performance.

And the seminar Making Carbon Management Simple practised what it preached by being held via the web, thereby saving the equivalent of 10 journeys worth of CO_2 – about 87kg – that would have been produced if the delegates had driven to County Hall.

Cllr Nick Chard, KCC's cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, said the hub could help companies cut costs and carbon and win business, but added: "They can also use the service to demonstrate to customers and suppliers that they care for the environment and are making simple but effective changes to the way they do business."

During the hour-long workshop businesses were introduced to other members and learned how to measure and reduce their carbon. It also acted as a platform to show the ease with which online technology could be used as an alternative to face-to-face meetings.

Tanya Walker, of PDQ Book-keeping and Secretarial, in Rainham, said the 'webinar' was "a very informative, well-developed session that will help us reduce our carbon".

Nine of the 10 companies found the workshop useful and the carbon hub is now gearing up for its next online seminar, Reducing Emissions for Travel, on October 27.

The South East Business Carbon Hub is free. For more information click on the website southeastbusiness.carbon-hub.com; or email carbon.hub@kent.gov.uk.

CHARLOTTE Bill's birthday arrived early when she was presented with a basket of goodies at the Staples in Tunbridge Wells.

Charlotte, 11, who was queuing alongside hundreds of fellow shoppers for the official opening of the new store at Fountains Retail Park, was picked out for a surprise windfall of gifts including pens and highlighters, notebooks, folders, memory sticks, a calculator and computer disks.

Charlotte, of Seal, Sevenoaks, said: "I was staying with my grandparents, who wanted to be at the store from 7am. I couldn't believe it when the manager took me aside and handed me all the presents. I'm about to go to Knole Academy and now have all the stationery I'll need."

Manager Nick Stephens, pictured above presenting Charlotte with her goodies, said: "We had fun and kept people amused with face painting, stilt-walkers, balloon-modelling and giveaways."

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College battles back from the brink

Cooperation offers a root to scientific success

EAST Malling Research and the University of Reading have announced a new collaboration to advance research in horticultural crop science.

East Malling chief executive Dr Mike Solomon and the university's vice-chancellor Professor Gordon Marshall signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to include joint bids for funding for research and knowledge transfer, and the training of the next generation of crop scientists.

It will also mean closer involvement of East Malling Research in the university's research via the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale, Faversham.

The partners say the MoU will help ensure research in horticultural crop science is economically sustainable and supported adequately by industry.

Dr Solomon said: "The MoU comes at a time when a spirit of collaboration and co-operation, rather than competition, is much needed."

Prof Marshall said it combined complementary skills of two leading UK horticultural research providers to meet future food security challenges.

He added: "Research collaboration, rather than competition, is the way forward in responding to society's and industry's horticultural science research needs. I hope this MoU sends an important signal to both government and the horticultural industry."

East Malling Research is the UK's top research centre for the horticultural industry. As well as developing dwarf rootstocks and storage technologies now used throughout the world, the site has been at the heart of improving the sector's ability to improve yields and environmental performance and adapt to the impact of climate change.

Scientists there recently completed the DNA fingerprinting of more than 2,200 apple and 500 pear trees at Brogdale. It is now partnering a university with an international reputation in food security and researching the impact of climate change upon agriculture and horticulture.

Reading has also pioneered the use of spectral filters – plastic films used to manipulate light in greenhouses – and ushered in new crop forecasting techniques for growers.

UNITY: Prof Gordon Marshall, left, with Dr Mike Solomon of East Malling Research

HADLOW College has returned to the top flight just seven years after hearing the education establishment read it the last rites.

The agricultural college near Tonbridge had been officially labelled 'failing' and driven to selling assets – it was turning over £4 million a year, but losing £1.5m.

VISION: Mark Lumsdon-Taylor

Since then, a new management team, including finance and resources director Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, has created a more business-like framework with commercial operations helping to balance the needs of its primary educational functions.

Instead of selling assets, it has a recent track record of investment in new farms and facilities, farm shops, tearooms and a garden centre. This has resulted in a maximum 'outstanding' grading from education watchdog Ofsted and a place at the pinnacle of the UK's 250-plus further education colleges – a long way from the bottom five per cent category it had sunk to just a few years ago.

The college, which covers agriculture, horticulture, animal management, countryside management, fisheries, equine and many other subjects, achieved 24 'outstanding' gradings across 27 categories.

Transformation

College spokeswoman Pat Crawford said: "Our transformation has made educational history. It took vision, drive, passion, determination, focus, motivation and desire – from all the staff – and a very real sense of the important part the specialist land-based colleges must play in regard to the challenges the world is facing: climate change, burgeoning population and food security."

The Ofsted rating comes after another successful year, which included scooping awards at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show.

Hadlow also grabbed the national spotlight in March by opening a ground-breaking £450,000 Centre for Sustainable Rural Regeneration. It is believed to be the first such building on any UK campus, and operates as a students' study centre and a meeting place or 'hub' for the rural business community.

It features triple glazing, low-flush toilets and waterless urinals, daylight dimming bulbs and heating that uses a pump to draw warmth from the ground.

Short supply keeps farmland prices high

FARMLAND prices in Kent are staying high despite a general lack of confidence across the UK economy.

The findings in the latest Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) land market survey showed arable land prices in the county rising from £13,591 to £14,209 per hectare, and pasture land prices rising from £11,738 to £11,676 per hectare over the past six months.

RICS says it reflects confidence among UK farmers – the industry has been lifted by calls for more homegrown food supplies – and a return to the market by lifestyle buyers looking for 'good life' or equestrian properties.

With dwindling supplies of surplus land, surveyors expect no let up over the next year as demand continues to outstrip supply.

South East RICS director Amanda Gardiner said: "As in the previous survey, we are seeing demand from farmers who are keen to expand their production, particularly into neighbouring farms. Given the elevated prices at the farm gate, it seems farmers are willing to pay a premium in order to do so.

"Farmland continues to be viewed as 'recession proof' and we are seeing UK and overseas investors purchasing commercial farms as an alternative form of investment which is outperforming other markets.

"These investors are competing with farmers and keeping prices high."

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on hospitality, travel and tourism

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** ALAN Dixon took the best bowling figures of his career to date when he claimed 6 for 36 at Canterbury to help Kent to a 190-run victory over Derbyshire.

Bob Wilson was Kent's top scorer in the first innings, making 61 of 183 all out, and the home side then skittled Derbyshire for 116, with seamer David Halfyard also taking 6 for 36 and wicketkeeper Derek Ufton claiming four catches.

A knock of 75 from Peter Richardson helped Kent take a commanding lead with a second innings total of 266 for 8 declared.

Derbyshire began the final day with an outside chance of victory, needing 302 to win with nine second innings wickets remaining.

Kent, however, wrapped up the win in just three overs of the morning session, bowling Derbyshire out for 111, with the Dartford-born Dixon the star player.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** THE European PGA committee fined Kent golfer Paul Hoad £250 for "conduct unbecoming of a professional" during qualifying for the Open at Prince's.

Hoad was cited by Phillip Walton and John Hawksworth and found guilty after a hearing in Glasgow.

"There was an element of throwing, a suggestion of bad language and an element of playing out of turn," explained Ken Schofield, the tour's executive director.

Three wickets in an over from Richard Ellison couldn't spare Kent from defeat in the quarter-finals of the Nat West Trophy against Essex.

Kent made a disappointing score of 172 for 9 from 60 overs and Essex were coasting to victory at 101 for 1 when Ellison claimed three wickets in five balls, but it was Chris Tavare that proved a thorn in their side as he went on to steer Essex to a six-wicket win.

2000 **10 YEARS AGO:** A CROWD of 4,000, the biggest of the season to date, saw Kent beat Leicestershire by 75 runs in Division One of the National League. It was the first Sunday one-day game at St Lawrence of the season and it went some way to reviving an otherwise dismal festival week for Kent.

The top order flopped badly and Mark Ealham suffered a cracked finger after being hit by a delivery from James, but they managed to score 214.

Matthew Fleming took 3 for 7 to rip out the middle order and the win was sealed with six overs to spare.

King of the Hill

British Superbikes leader eyes home circuit podium at Brands

POLE POSITION: Tommy Hill aims to extend his title race lead at Brands this weekend
Picture: NICK DUNGAN

By TOM HOWARD

TITLE challenger Tommy Hill is gunning for nothing short of the top step of the podium in Sunday's British Superbike Championship at Brands Hatch.

The 25-year-old superbike rider arrives at his home circuit with a two-point series lead from Aussie racer Josh Brookes, which he is desperate to extend with a double victory at the Kent circuit on Sunday.

Crucial

The Beckenham-born Suzuki rider started the championship on fire, which included a win at Brands in April, but has seen his lead whittled down in the last few rounds, making this weekend's races crucial to his hopes of being crowned champion.

He said: "At Brands I want to be on that top step of the podium again, but it's never easy because all the other teams are moving forward.

"I need to get a good set-up and plan to return to winning ways. We have got to push for podiums and race wins.

"People keep saying I'm in the top-six, which is good, but we need to keep pushing. I could just sit there and be happy with a top-six position, but podium credits are crucial. We could get to the end of the season and it could be decided by one of the races we just settled for points only. If that happened I would always be thinking 'if only I pushed a bit harder'."

Although HM Plant Honda's Brookes is his main rival, Hill is fully aware of the threat Brookes' team-mate Ryuichi Kiyonari carries. The Japanese rider has become a Brands Hatch specialist over the years with wins in the British and World Championships, and Hill knows he will need a plan to stop him.

He said: "There are a lot of riders up there and about six or seven who are capable of pushing for wins. Kiyonari is very strong at Brands and he is a rider that needs to be stopped early on."

The first of Sunday's two races begins at 1.30pm.

Dobriskey refuses to blame injury for flop at European Championships

RELAY WOE: Montell Douglas and the 4x100m team failed to reach the final

LISA Dobriskey failed to live up to her billing after missing out on a medal at the European Athletics Championships in Barcelona last Sunday.

The 26-year-old athlete entered the event as one of the fastest 1500m runners in the world this year, but was edged out of the medals, finishing the final in fourth place.

The Ashford athlete looked to be in prime position to strike for gold on the final lap, but allowed herself to get boxed in on the bend, which stopped her from launching into a sprint finish. She could only recover to fourth position.

Spain's Nuria Fernandez won gold with France's Hind Dehiba taking silver and another Spaniard, Natalia Rodriguez, took bronze.

Dobriskey, a world silver medallist, was disappointed with the result, but refused to blame her fitness after suffering a niggling back injury earlier this season.

She said: "I can honestly put my hand on heart, I gave everything but I wasn't good enough. I've come here in the best shape I wanted to be in, training has gone well and I have no excuses."

Dobriskey was due to return to competitive action in the Diamond League meeting at Stockholm, Sweden, on Friday.

Montell Douglas also endured a disappointing championship as she was part of the Great Britain 4x100m relay team that failed to qualify for last Sunday's final.

The 24-year-old Blackheath & Bromley sprinter, who grew up in Chatham, was part of a relay quartet labelled a "disgrace" by head of UK Athletics, Charles Van Commenee, after an error-strewn race saw them finish sixth in the semi-final.

She said after the race: "In training things had been going well, so it was really disappointing."

Pictures: ADY KERRY

FOURTH-PLACE: Lisa Dobriskey finished outside the medals in the 1500-metres

Cricket at Canterbury

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Inside view with ROB KEY

'Skippering side has been tough this year'

Kent captain Rob Key reflects on a season that has seen his side depleted by injuries which have scuppered their hopes of success

EVEN my four previous seasons as Kent's captain could not prepare me for the difficulty of doing the job this summer. It has been my hardest season as a captain, by miles.

But, despite all the disappointments and disruptions, the injuries and the unavailability which has plagued us since it all began in early April, we are still in there fighting. Coupled with all the uncertainties off the field at the club, I think the team have kept going extremely well.

The LV= County Championship victory against Essex, at the start of the Canterbury festival week, was particularly sweet – given all the frustrations we have endured – and a vital win in the context of our whole season.

We have played the championship fixture against Somerset since, of course, but that Essex game was a must-win because they are one of the sides that we can finish above in our fight to stay in Division One come the end of the campaign in mid-September.

Warwickshire look adrift at the foot of the table, but the second relegation place will most probably be occupied by one of Essex, Hampshire and ourselves. We still have to play Hampshire again, at home in Canterbury in our penultimate match of the season, and Warwickshire away, but because of the victory over Essex, our fate is now very much still in our own hands – and that's the way I like it.

It was no surprise to me we played well against Essex, because we were able to put out our strongest side – bar possibly Robbie Joseph – into the field for the very first time in the championship this season, and we won. It just underlined how unfortunate we have been this summer, what with one thing and another.

My own broken finger, suffered in early July, felt like it was the last straw when it happened, but I was always hopeful of making it back in time for the Canterbury festival and I felt it was important to get back for these last two games.

SPIRITED: Rob Key, with his strapped up finger, says despite the club's struggles, spirit remains high within his squad as they look to finish strongly Pictures: ADY KERRY

I have not been hitting as many balls in practice as I would usually do, in order to make sure the finger heals up properly, and it hurts a bit when I play some cross-bat shots – but overall it is fine and I am looking forward to the last five or six weeks of the season.

All I hope is that – at last – we can get down to playing a run of games with our strongest team available. If we can do that, I am confident we can finish the summer strongly and show what we are still capable of as a side.

With my injury, and the call-ups to the England Lions of both Darren Stevens and James Tredwell in late June and early July – plus Treddy's subsequent selection for the England one-day squad against Bangladesh – our Twenty20 campaign was well and truly undermined in the second-half of the group stage.

Not having Robbie Joseph fit for almost all the first four months of the season has hit us hard, too.

HATS OFF: Ladies day, a feature of Canterbury Cricket week, during this week's game against Somerset

In the Clydesdale Bank 40 League, too, we have also suffered from missing key players and so it is the championship that we really have to concentrate on in these final weeks.

I keep saying that, actually, we are not a bad side – because I know that is the truth. But it is all the off-field problems, as captain, with injuries and unavailability and the uncertainty week to week of who you have got, which really wears you down. Trying to get by all the time is not the way you want to go, but we've had no alternative and so we've just had to get on with things.

One final word about Amjad Khan and the situation surrounding him and the offers he's been receiving from Somerset and Sussex. I'm hopeful Amjad will stay with us at Kent, and I think he's made it clear that he would like to. Hopefully a deal will be done to suit both Amjad and the club.

The financial situation at Kent is well known, and as a result the vision for the future – from the playing side – has changed a bit since last year. But I think the club has been pretty honest with all the players, and especially the senior players, and again I am hopeful they will all be committed – as I am – to being a part of the club's immediate future.

• ***Rob Key, the Kent captain and former England batsman, is one of KOS Media's regular sports columnists.***

Lashings star tells of fight against Mugabe and exile to county in book

THERE'S a revealing moment in Henry Olonga's autobiography, when he describes how he felt arriving in Kent after fleeing the Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe.

In Maidstone, where the former Zimbabwe international now lives, the definition of political oppression is a fortnightly rubbish collection. In Zimbabwe it is being hung upside down by a militia and having your eyes gouged out while you are still alive.

"I soon noticed how sensitive relationships with neighbours can be in England," he writes. "There were many arguments about noise, garbage, over-parking and so on. It was a different world for me, as in Africa people care less about such things."

Yet Olonga's book Blood, Sweat and Treason also makes it clear how friendly he found everyone in Maidstone after moving there to join Lashings Cricket Club.

FREEDOM FIGHTER: Henry Olonga (right) shares a joke with Lashings team-mate Phil DeFreitas

In his native Africa, Olonga's family split up when he was a child, he was twice nearly kidnapped, close friends of his died, he was plagued by injuries and later ostracised by team-mates he suspected of racism and then suffered a terrifying carjacking – and all this happened before he took on Zimbabwe's dictator Robert Mugabe.

Olonga is a complex and sensitive character who says he can identify with Marcus Trescothick's battles with mental illness, even if he was never affected to the same degree.

This book is billed the story of the man "who risked his life in the name of freedom" and it isn't an exaggeration.

Given that Olonga speaks better English than many natives, even though it isn't his first language, it's somewhat surprising to find his autobiography has been ghosted.

The end result however is a read that's sometimes harrowing, always compelling and occasionally ego-puncturingly funny – Mark Nicholas's reaction when he realises Henry can't remember his name is worth the £18.99 on its own.

• Blood, Sweat and Treason is available from Vision Sport Publications.

Nel on course for return to Kent first-team action

WINTER recruit Dewald Nel is nearing a return to the Kent first-team after several impressive performances for the 2nd XI.

Nel has suffered a frustrating time at Canterbury after signing in the close season, making just one appearance for Rob Key's side. A back strain kept him out for several months, but that appears to have cleared up and has been consistently improving in the second-team.

Kent head coach Paul Farbrace said the Scotland international is nearing a return, which would boost his bowling options for the final weeks of the summer.

He said: "Nel has bowled well in the last few weeks and is about ready for first-team cricket now, which is excellent news."

The South African born seamer played in a 2nd XI game against Sussex at Hove this week, together with three bowlers on trial at Kent. Luke Radford of Worcester, Bradley Kruger, formerly of Northamptonshire and Paul Muchall of Durham have all impressed for the second-team.

INJURED: Dewald Nel has only played one first-team game

Contracted seam bowler Phil Edwards wasn't included in the game, raising questions about his future at the club.

FINALE: Ashford Town (in green) against Chatham in their final competitive game

Nuts and Bolts run out of time for new season

ASHFORD Town will sit out the new football season after new owner Tony Betteridge decided there wasn't time to rebuild the club after his takeover.

The troubled club were hoping to enter the Kent League this season, after Betteridge won a long drawn out legal dispute with former co-owner Don Crosbie last week. However, after positive talks with the league, plans to enter the division were abandoned on Monday.

With the future of the club only decided last week after Town entered administration, Ashford were left with a race against time to ensure competitive football at Homelands.

Betteridge held talks with the Kent League who said the club could enter this season, but with no definite structure in place, he felt there was not enough time. He has, though, assured supporters the club will return to competitive action in the 2011-12 season.

He said: "I have come to a decision that Ashford will not be playing football this season. It is a sad situation but I have spoken to various experts and they have agreed this is the best course of action.

"The Kent League have been magnificent about the whole situation. They said they could have slotted us in this season, but with the lack of structure at the club it would have been a rush job to do it. I have tried to give the supporters what they want, but I feel there is too much to be done in a short space of time."

Town boss Steve Lovell is expected to be searching for a new club along with the remainder of the Ashford squad.

A good season for optimism?

Hess factor raises Gills fans' hopes

By DAVID PRITCHARD

AUGUST is traditionally the point of the season when levels of optimism reach their giddiest heights and enthusiasm at Gillingham this week was no exception.

Relegated only on goal difference in May, the Gills could easily have started another season in League One this weekend. Perhaps due to that slender margin, they have been made favourites by the bookmakers to win promotion at the first attempt.

Club chairman Paul Scally is never short of confidence ahead of a new season, but he piled on the pressure by saying anything other than automatic promotion would be considered failure. Central to his expectation is the return of Andy Hessenthaler, who has succeeded Mark Stimson as manager.

Excited

Scally said: "Having been completely distraught about what happened in May, I'm actually highly excited about this season because I love working with Andy Hessenthaler. He cares about the club and what he does, so to have him in control of the team I know it's in the best hands it could possibly be in."

For once the fans are striking a less bombastic tone than the club, perhaps waiting to see whether anyone in the squad can make up for the departure of top scorer Simeon Jackson, sold to Norwich City last month.

Alan Liptrott, co-editor of fan site GillsConnect.com, said: "I think the supporters would certainly like us to be in the play-offs and go from there. I'm looking to the play-offs as a minimum."

Hessenthaler has brought in Adebayo Akinfenwa and Cody McDonald to ease the loss of Jackson and will need one of his forwards to break the 20-goal mark if the club are to fight for a top three spot. The successful return of long-term absentee Simon King would also improve the club's chances.

"If we can get everyone back fit then I think we're a really strong team," the Gills boss said.

"Nobody will want to come to Priestfield and play us because I think we want to play it the right way. We've got players who will score goals with Bayo coming to the club, pace in the right areas and lots of energy in midfield."

Caution

In theory the squad is strong enough to at least compete at the sharp end in the fourth tier. The last time they were in the Football League's basement tier, two seasons ago, they were able to bounce back thanks to victory in the play-offs, but the recent records of newly relegated teams should act as a note of caution.

Northampton Town's 11th place was the best of the four teams relegated from League One last summer, with the other three finishing in the bottom half. In fact, of the last 12 teams to drop into League Two, Gillingham are the only team to make an immediate return to League One, while eight are still treading water.

GILLS' BIG RIVALS FOR PROMOTION:

BRADFORD: Surely the Bantams will finally get things right in their fourth season in League Two. Backed by the biggest crowds in the division, boss Peter Taylor has a track record of getting out of the fourth tier.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Always a contender when in League Two and finished last season strongly under Gary Waddock. Ben Strevens looks a shrewd addition to an already strong attacking line-up.

ROTHERHAM UNITED: After years of instability the Millers look to be on their way up. Lost in the play-off final last season and look to be contenders again, if they can keep hold of top scorer Adam Le Fondre.

TEAM EFFORT: Curtis Weston, who helped Gills back to League One last time around and (inset) striker Cody McDonald, who it's hoped will fill Simeon Jackson's boots

Pictures: ADY KERRY

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

ARMBAND: Paul Lorraine has been Fleet's pre-season captain

New skipper's strong hand to guide Fleet

EBBSFLEET United may have endured another turbulent close-season but Liam Daish's side appear to be heading into Blue Square Bet South under strong leadership, ***writes Steve Tervet.***

Paul Lorraine, one of Daish's first summer signings, has captained the side throughout pre-season and the 26-year-old looks set to don the armband when Maidenhead United visit Stonebridge Road for the opening game next Saturday.

The former AFC Wimbledon and Woking centre-back received a host of contract offers having been released by the Dons in April, but he revealed Daish's playing background had been a key factor in joining the Fleet.

"Liam Daish was obviously a good centre-back himself," he said. "I'm only 26, I still want to learn and improve. Sometimes it's difficult when a manager's played in your position because they can come down hard on you, but I'm not looking at it like that."

The club's location was also a selling point for Lorraine, who is studying at Greenwich University's Avery Hill campus in Eltham, just a 20-minute drive from Stonebridge Road.

Lorraine has already forged a fine understanding with central defensive partner Dean Pooley and his three years' experience in Blue Square Premier should stand Daish's side in good stead.

He said: "There are no groups, no cliques and I think with us all coming in new, it might help us. Ebbsfleet ticked so many boxes for me and when Liam contacted me, I was happy to come down here.

"I feel I've got quite a lot of pressure on my shoulders because I want to produce the goods. If the gaffer did choose someone else then so be it, I'll still keep playing and talking how I do, but I feel privileged to be captain."

Ex-Stones hero part of club takeover bid

FORMER Maidstone United defender Glenn Aitken emerged as a key player in David Folb's bid to take over the ailing county town club this week.

Folb, owner of the Lashings World XI cricket side, has charged Aitken with handling negotiations with incumbent Stones chairman Paul Bowden-Brown.

Aitken met informally with club representatives on Wednesday night and has also had a preliminary discussion with Bowden-Brown, who reiterated his desire to step down this week.

"I want to get out," he said. "I've done my bit, [the takeover] is what I'm working towards and I'm not going to stand in anyone's way. Administration is not an option, we will get through this one way or the other.

"I hope supporters will see Glenn's involvement as positive news, but we've also got to make sure that any deal keeps Oliver Ash (who owns 25 per cent of the club's shares) happy."

Aitken was a member of the Stones side in the late 70s and early 80s that earned fame for a series of giant-killing runs in the FA Cup. He also played for Gillingham and was a member of the Wimbledon side that memorably drew with Leeds United in the FA Cup in 1975.

He later worked with Lashings and was chief executive at Gravesend & Northfleet.

"I've known Glenn for a very long time and I hope that supporters will realise that by asking a man of his calibre to handle these negotiations I'm demonstrating how serious I am about taking over the Stones," Folb said.

Maidstone announced this week they will be playing their home games at Ashford's Homelands ground after agreeing a new deal with owner Tony Betteridge.

TALKS A GOOD GAME

Chief sports reporter meets British golf's only major winner never to have been honoured by the Queen

Interview with
DAVID PRITCHARD

'To be the best you have to play the best'

Deal's former British Open winner Karen Stupples says more women European golfers should take a trip Stateside in their bid to join the game's elite

HACKING her way round Prince's Golf Club in 1984, anyone who saw Karen Stupples' first round of golf would have been forgiven for thinking she might not be back.

Golf can be a thoroughly miserable experience on a bad day and carding a 144 would be enough for most people to think maybe it was not the sport for them.

But despite going round in 72-over-par, Stupples had the bug. The fact she had taken on Prince's – a former Open host course – aged 11 with minimal experience was indicative of the desire to set the bar high from day one, showing a streak which would push her to ever greater heights later on.

"I'm probably one of the most stubborn people you'll ever meet," she said. "There's been very few things I've thought I couldn't do and I don't know if that's a good thing or not, but I'm willing to try and keep going until I either win or fail."

By 16 the Deal schoolgirl was playing off scratch and representing England at the start of a successful, but not spectacular amateur career, which came third in her list of priorities behind school and work.

It was only once she arrived at the University of Florida on a golf scholarship that her game went to the next level. Opening a new world of possibilities, it was the first exposure to the LPGA Tour – home to the best female players in the world.

Not for the first – or last – time, Stupples opted for a tougher route and decided to focus on making it in the States. Although the fledgling months after qualifying were a struggle to make ends meet, it was a formative period. It is a path she believes more aspiring players from Europe should follow to fulfil their potential.

"The bottom line is until you put it out there you never know if you've got it or not," she said. "The biggest key for me was going to university out there. Whether you graduate or not is a bit irrelevant – I'm going to get killed for saying that – but if your main goal is to play golf, the American university system is fantastic.

"You get used to the travel and the system, so if your ultimate goal is to play golf in America it might be a good idea to go to school out there, even if it's only for one or two years.

"It is comfortable in Europe, you can come home and your parents will pick you up, it's a very easy existence, but if you want to be the best you've got to go and play with the best."

The decision paid off. Steady progress up the rankings accelerated in 2004 with a first victory in the Welch's/Fry's Championship in Tuscon, Arizona. It was swiftly followed by the biggest title of her career, the Women's British Open at Sunningdale.

The victory elevated the 37-year-old to a new level, becoming only the third English golfer to win a major, although the amount of time spent in the US means she has an ambiguous relationship with the sport in this country.

She said: "I have always thought of myself as a bit of an overlooked golfer here, in America they know who I am because I'm there all the time. From the time I went out to the States on a golf scholarship, I kind of felt like once you're out of sight you're out of mind. I think maybe to a certain extent I still feel that.

"It doesn't bother me, but I have a chuckle at some of the things. When you look at the records I'm the only British golfer to win a major that doesn't have an honour from the Queen. I'm the only one. I have a chuckle at it, really what does that mean?

"But to be the only one not to have it adds to that forgotten golfer thing."

Results since then have been patchy, with the birth of her first child, Logan, in 2007, and appendicitis last year, slowing progress.

Victory in the Wales Ladies Championship of Europe in last August, which she defends in Conwy next week, was her first since the British Open, but came too late for Solheim Cup selection, which was a bitter blow.

Stupples intends to play on at the top level for at least another decade and believes her best golf still lies ahead.

She said: "In terms of winning I think I have plenty more wins left in me. I don't honestly think I've reached my potential and that is my main driving force, I just want to see how good I can be. I would love to win more majors."

With her track record of meeting challenges head-on, few would bet against Stupples becoming a multiple major winner.

Who knows, with another of the sport's blue riband events in the bag, she may even get a call from the palace.

FACT FILE

NAME: Karen Stupples
SPORT: Golf
BORN: 24/06/1973 (age 37)
HOME TOWN: Deal
ACHIEVEMENTS: Three tour victories including Women's British Open in 2004
WHAT NEXT? Another decade on the LPGA Tour, more victories

Pictures: ADY KERRY

OVERLOOKED: Karen Stupples says she is a 'forgotten golfer' in her homeland

Seymour set for World Cup spot

AFTER being a virtual ever-present in the national side for the past 12 months, Natalie Seymour should be among the World Cup hockey squad announced tomorrow.

The 23-year-old featured in every game as England finished third at the Champions Trophy, the team's first ever medal in the event. The tournament in Nottingham served as a warm-up for the World Cup, which begins in Rosario, Argentina, on August 29.

If selected it would be the first time Seymour, who plays club hockey for Canterbury ladies, has appeared at a World Cup, which is second only in importance to the Olympic title.

She won her 41st international cap playing in a Test against the USA on Tuesday, which England lost 3-2.

England have never finished higher than fourth and face a tough test to get out of their group, which includes the hosts and China, two of the top three sides in the world rankings.

Elsewhere, England's men complete their Champions Trophy campaign today. Defeats to hosts Germany and Australia, plus a 3-3 draw with Spain in their opening pool games in Monchengladbach left them fighting for a bronze medal at best, but Chatham-born Ashley Jackson continued his prolific goalscoring form with three goals in the opening three games.

Picture: ADY KERRY

REGULAR: Canterbury's Natalie Seymour

SCALLY WRIT NO FEAR FOR GILLS

Chairman allays concerns around his personal loan

GILLINGHAM chairman Paul Scally has moved to calm supporters' fears by insisting the High Court action taken against him by two former Watford FC owners has nothing to do with the football club.

It emerged this week the Gills chairman has been served with a writ by Valley Grown Salads, owned by former Watford directors Giacomo and Vincenzo Russo.

The brothers have launched legal action to reclaim a £250,000 loan they say was made to Scally in 2007 – a time when they owned the Hornets – which they claim is unpaid.

The Gills chief intends to defend the writ, but made it clear the dispute was independent of the club.

He said: "Everything is in the hands of my lawyers and it's a matter which is completely unconnected to the football club and is a private matter between me and the Russos.

"I don't know what the Russos are saying because I've not seen the story, but right now I'm not too concerned because it's in the hands of my lawyers anyway."

According to the legal documents, which were issued in June, the loan was for "short-term financial assistance" and transferred into Scally's personal bank account on December 5, 2007.

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

Under the terms, which the write claims were agreed orally, the money was due to be repaid in three months, after which point a commercial rate of interest would then be charged. This takes the amount claimed to be owed by Scally to more than £284,000.

The claim is for a rate of six per cent, which was the same level charged on a commercial loan previously advanced to Scally by the Russo brothers, according to the writ.

The brothers claim despite several oral and written demands for repayment, the most recent coming from their solicitors Vanderpump & Sykes in May, Scally has yet to repay a penny.

The issuing of the loan came just before Scally sold Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium for £9.8 million to a separate company, Priestfield Developments Limited.

Under the deal, formally agreed at an EGM of Gillingham FC Ltd on December 20, 2007, the club's debts were slashed from more than £12m down to about £3m.

Scally, who rescued Gills in 1995, when he bought the club for £1, denied the Russo loan was linked to the sale of Priestfield.

He said: "It's completely unconnected. I don't know what the timing of it was and I don't know where that's come from. It's got absolutely nothing to do with Priestfield Developments."

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Kent to hold Azhar back for championship run-in

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT look set to rest all-rounder Azhar Mahmood for the visit of Leicestershire in today's Clydesdale Bank 40 clash to keep him fresh for the remainder of the championship season.

The 35-year-old is contracted for limited overs cricket only for Kent and plays in the LV= County Championship on a 'pay as you play' deal.

He featured for the county just three times in the championship before last week's 99-run win against Essex, but his display in that game, in which he recorded match figures of 8 for 109, prompted the club to ask him to play against Somerset this week.

With Kent in a battle to stay in Division One, remaining in the championship's top tier is the priority and that could mean resting Mahmood, arguably the club's best bowler, for one-day games to ensure he is fit and ready to play in the championship.

"We've had to work to get him ready for the championship game and the sacrifice may be that he doesn't play on Sunday in the one-day game because he would have played eight days out of nine," head coach Paul Farbrace said.

"We definitely want to keep him fresh for the championship games now as it takes preference for the last six weeks of the season and we want to get as many games out of him as we can.

"Even as we have a 10-day break after today it's not going to be easy, there is a chance he may not figure in a couple of games after that."

The former Surrey man has a contract at the club that runs until the end of the 2011 season and hasn't signed a new deal as an extension to that, contrary to reports elsewhere this week.

Farbrace added: "He was always contracted for next year as far as I was concerned and also becomes British qualified.

"He hasn't signed another deal."

Elsewhere, Kent are due to begin talks with Amjad Khan in the next few weeks.

The fast bowler, who is in the last year of his contract, has offers from Sussex and Somerset, but is believed to be holding out to hear what Kent's intentions are.

The county are keen on keeping him at St Lawrence and will sit down with the player and his agent in the next couple of weeks.

Farbrace said: "We really don't want to lose Amjad, this year his effort and commitment has been 100 per cent and he has bowled well. We are very pleased with how he is doing, but we are aware other clubs are interested.

"When you look at the quality of the bowlers available it's no surprise Amjad is one of those other counties are pursuing."

Picture: ADY KERRY

EASY DOES IT: Mahmood is to be rested today

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